**ARE YOU MISSING OUT** ON THE **PROPERTY** BOOM? PAGE 25

**BRITAIN'S GREAT MARATHON** 

**AMERICANS** LEARN TO BE BRITS

**Quentin Letts** at charm school PAGE 19



THE CHELSEA **BOOT** Brian Glanville

Gianfranco Zola

## Major and Blair challenged to meet in face-to-face debate

BY PHICIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL **EDITOR** 

A FRESH challenge to John Major and Tony Blair to take part in a televised general election debate is issued today by The Times.

After the breakdown of negotiations between the parties at the end of last month on what would be the first such encounter in British

politics, the initiative appeared to be over, for this election at least.

enge is intended to break the stalemate over a leaders' debate But yesterday Peter Stothard, the Editor of The Times, wrote to the Tory and Labour camps asking their leaders to participate in a debate, hosted by the newspaper and thrown open to the television companies, in London on Sunday

He said last night: "This chall-

and to offer the two candidates for Prime Minister a chance to discuss their different visions for the future of Britain in a neutral setting."

A leading article in the newspaper today states that the time is now ripe for a debate. It says: "Even without the prospect of a debate to divert the campaigners' minds, the central issue has become one of trust and personal character. Voters have been asked to believe that the very soul of the Tory party has somehow been rehoused in Tony Blair. They have been asked to believe that Mr Major has a resolution under fire that has been underestimated in the past and will serve Britain powerfully in the future. Voters deserve to see these

qualities tested directly before their

The lengthy talks with the broad-casters ended on March 27 amid recriminations with the Tories claiming that Labour had "run away" and Labour saying that the Tories had "frustrated discussions."

The debate as proposed by The Times would not include Paddy

article states, it is intended to be between the potential prime ministers and because "three debaters makes bad debate."

But it also accepts that the broadcasters would have to make special arrangements to give Mr Ashdown the compensating air time that would be his due.

Today's proposal by The Times is

parties, including the Conservatives who appeared to be the keenest, had virtually written off

However the apparent narrowing in the polls in recent days may make the Labour leadership more amenable to the challenge.

Leading article, page 21

IRA sniper

attacks

woman

constable BY NICHOLAS WATT CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN police officer was fighting for her life last night after an IRA sniper shot her in the chest in the centre of Londonderry. The shooting confounded speculation in

Belfast that the IRA would

announce a tactical suspen-

sion of its terrorist campaign

at 4.00pm yesterday to boost

The gunman fired a single

shot at the policewoman from

the back of a van 12 minutes

before the ceasefire was ex-

pected. The RUC Reserve

Force constable, in her forties

and married with three children, was on guard duty out-

side the courthouse. Her

condition was serious but

After the shooting the van

sped away and was later abandoned at Butcher Gate on

the city walls when the terror-

area, a stronghold of Sinn

Fein. The van had mainland

numberplates. The IRA later

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the

Northern Ireland Secretary,

last night condemned the

shooting as a "sickening at-tack". He said: "My thoughts

are with this brave young

woman and her family ... She

was guarding the Courts of

Justice. Justice means nothing

to the IRA ... Their victims receive no trial and are grant-

ed no appeal."

claimed responsibility.

stable last night.

Sinn Fein's election vote.

## Tories flout wait-and-see line on EMU

By Andrew Pierce, Dominic Kennedy, Ian Murray and Arthur Leathley

DOZENS of Tory candidates, including at least one minister, have flouted the Government's wait-and-see policy on a single currency in their constituency election

Many are taking advantage of a millionaire businessman's offer of financial support to any candidate who opposes a single currency. It is thought that around 150 Tories will receive donations from Paul Sykes, 53, who said last night: "I think the final number of candidates will be closer to 200. It is going to cost me around £500,000. But it's moving our way."

The minister concerned is Angela Browning at the Department of Agriculture, who has apparently breached the carefully crafted government line in defiance of direct pleas from John Major.

Mrs Browning, who is defending Tiverton and Honiton and was tipped for promotion, made her views clear in an election newsletter, in which she writes that there were constitutional as well as economic issues to take into account in consideration of a

EIGHTY-FOUR leaders of

small companies today en-

dorse Tony Blair's New Lab-

our party, claiming that the

Tories had failed to support

them in the past five years.
In a letter in The Times

today - the same day Labour

launches its business manifes-

to - the industrialists argue

that there have been il tax

increases and red tape had

expanded rather than con-

"A small business has gone

bust every three minutes of

every working day since 1992.

Mr Major's belated announce-

ment earlier this week on business rates will do too little

to make up for what we have

lost," says the letter.

tracted under the Tories.

ELECTION 97

Peter Riddell Matthew Parris Leading article.

single currency. One of the conditions already stated in the Maastricht treaty was that all countries which joined should hand over their gold and foreign currency reserves to the Central Bank in Frankfurt, she writes.

The consequence would be the end of sovereignty of the nation state and if that is what is offered I have made it very clear that I will not support it."

Many of her Tory colleagues are even blunter in their election addresses despite appeals from a succession of senior ministers led by Mr Major, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, to resist the temptation to defy the policy.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, an of-ficer of the 1922 backbench committee of MPs, who is defending Brent North,

"We believe that small busi-

with a Labour government." But Labour's evident delight

was marred when a million-

aire businessman hailed by

Mr Blair last year as backing

his party's values turned his

fire on the Labour leader,

accusing him of trying to

gestions that he was not

hostile to the party's policies

last year's annual party con-

ference Mr Blair used the

By NICK NUTTALL

ENVIRONMENT

AS BRITAIN basked in sunshine that outdid Athens, Algiers and Cairo, the pros-

pect of the year's first new

hosepipe bans emerged in

After the driest two years for more than two centuries.

and with temperatures in the

70s, at least one water com-

pany, Essex and Suffolk, has

consulted the Government

about introducing bans.

eastern England yesterday.

rope us all in".

Small firms' bosses

support Labour

By JILL SHERMAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

writes: "I believe that a single currency would be disastrous for Britain. Let us stay in Europe as a trading nation but we must retain our own currency, our own Armed Forces and our own legal

Sir Archie Hamilton. the former minister and a leading candidate to be the next chairman of the 1922 committee, writes: "If re-elected I shall vote against monetary union and campaign against it in the referendum the Tories have promised. We do not want to lose our pound."

very carefully to all the arguments about the single currency and then I shall vote against Walter Sweeney, who is

David Shaw, who is defend-

defending a majority of 19 in the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "NO to the Social Chapter. NO to a single currency.'

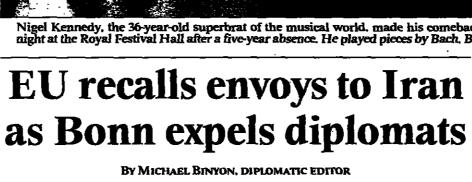
Three candidates have set up web sites on the Internet declaring their opposition to a single currency. They are Stephen Day, Cheadle, David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Paymaster General who resigned from the Government to campaign against the single currency, and Robert Syms in

The extent of the manifesto "rebellion" became apparent as the Prime Minister was making his first major campaign speech on Europe.

Speaking in Staffordshire on the eve of Labour's business manifesto launch, he said ness can look forward with confidence to profitable future that Tony Blair's promise to sign up to the Social Chapter would damage jobs and lead to a resurgence in trade union

> Mr Major said: "The unions have long seen Europe as the back door to power in Britain. While Margaret Thatcher and I have been in charge, that backd oor has stayed firmly bolted.

Sir Anthony Bamford de-nied Labour leadership sug-"A Labour government would slip that bolt ever so quietly open. And once the door was open, it could never and backed its objectives. At be closed. The Social Chapter is the unions' fast track back to power in Britain. That's one Continued on page 2, col 5 reason why I won't ever sign Letters, page 21



THE European Union last night suspended its "critical dialogue" with Iran and announced the immediate recall of all EU ambassadors in Tehran. The moves came just the assassination of the four Kurds was ordered by an hours after a Berlin court Iranian secret special operaverdict that directly implicated senior Iranian Government

Germany also announced the immediate recall of its envoy to Tehran, the expulsion of four Iranian diplomats from Bonn and a unilateral ending of German participation in any "critical dialogue" with Iran. The German Formans not to travel to Iran. partners to agree a firm response on April 29. Germany accused Iran of a flagrant violation of interna-Among the retaliatory meational law" after Judge Frithjof Kubsch said in his ruling that

sures being considered are the expulsion and permanent exclusion of all remaining Iran-ian intelligence officials from any EU country. Iran responded last night,

withdrawing its Ambassador to Bonn for "consultations", expelling four German diplomats from Tehran and dismissing the Berlin verdict as political. "This accusation is not true," Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the parliamentary

Revenge fears, page 8

# Nigel Kennedy, the 36-year-old superbrat of the musical world, made his comeback into classical music last night at the Royal Festival Hall after a five-year absence. He played pieces by Bach, Bartok . . . and Jimi Hendrix EU recalls envoys to Iran

officials in the murder of Kurdish exiles in a restaurant in 1992.

eign Ministry warned Ger-

tions committee whose members included President Rafsanjani, and Ayatoliah Ali Khamenei, the supreme spiritual leader, as well as the Intelligence Minister and the head of foreign policy. The judge did not name them. Britain gave swift support to the EU statement and to Speaker, said. Germany's measures. The

Leading article, page 21

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



Mid Kent Water has an-TV & RADIO ......46, 47 LETTERS .....21, 40 WEATHER .....24 OBITUARIES ..... 23 CROSSWORDS......24, 48 MATTHEW PARRIS...... 20

anyone who is bucking the nounced that a spotter plane will be patrolling to detect system." illegally filled swimming Forecasters said yesterday pools. Customers with pools that temperatures would fall

three shower points.

sprinklers since last summer.

A spokesman for Essex and

The plane will also report to one of six mobile teams on the ground to check if anyone seen using a sprinkler has a meter or a licence. The com-pany serves 500,000 homes in the Ashford, Maidstone and

are now required to buy

Canterbury areas. Chris Thomas, who is to fly the weekend's first spotter mission, said: "We are determined to crack down on

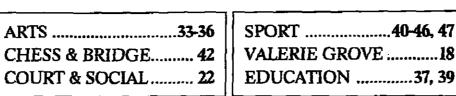
Sunny spring brings threat of hose bans Suffolk Water said the company had no restrictions at the moment but this might have to change, adding: "We have had talks with the Departtoday but rise again on Sunment of the Environment and day. A spokesman for the will make a decision at the beginning of May, but restric-Marathon said 650,000 bottles of water

Foreign Office said that it

would work with Britain's EU

would be available along the tions look likely." The hot dry weather has route during the race on Sunday. There would also be been good news for sellers of ice-cream and sunglasses, Although no bans have with traders on the South Coast reporting record sales been introduced so far this year, gardeners in Sussex have had restrictions on for the time of year.

Rivers low, page 2 Forecast, page 24







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## Labour blocks private school's bid to join state system

BY DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN CATHOLIC independent girls' school hoping to join the state system yesterday failed to win approval from Labour to become grant-maintained.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said a decision could not be made about Mount St Mary's Convent School in Exeter until after the election. The Roman Catholic diocese of Plymouth app-

lied for public funding in December is put on hold. Michael Bichard, 1995 after a decision to close the Permanent Secretary at the Departschool this summer by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, the order

The diocese won the support of the Funding Agency for Schools, the quango which oversees grant-maintained schools, in July last year. But the Government failed to approve the application before the election

Once an election is called, all business deemed to be "contentious" ment for Education and Employment, ruled that the school fell into that category.

However, Lord Henley, a junior Education Minister, wrote to Mr Blunkett on Wednesday saying that the Government was "minded to approve" the application and asking him to back the plan in order to end the anxiety of parents of the 240

A spokesman for Mr Blunkett Exeter. A spokesman said: "Al-

have had seven months to expedite this matter. They are lying to local people by trying to pretend that it isn't their fault that this matter was not dealt with much sooner. If we are elected on May I and if David Blunkett is Education Secretary, he will look at the proposals in a fair and reasonable manner."

The diocese said the school would fulfil a demand for a non-selective Roman Catholic state education in

though the proposals are supported by the Funding Agency for Schools and, apparently, recommended for approval from the Department for Education, it remains possible in the light of recent events that the present or next Secretary of State could reject them. If this happens. we will do everything possible to help parents to find a suitable school for the girls."

☐ Governors were yesterday criticised for overturning the expulsion of a boy who held a woodwork knife

to a younger pupil's throat. The 15-year-old boy was allowed back to Brockhill Park School in Hythe, Kent, after his parents appealed. The mother of the 12-year-old he threatened said she had not been told of the decision. Tony Gyng, the head teacher, said his staff had reluctantly accepted the decision. "I think the expulsion was right, but I have to respect the decision of the governors."

Education, pages 37 and 39

#### Challenge over cell death can go ahead

The family of Wayne Douglas, whose death in police custody led to riots in Brixton, won High Court permission yesterday to challenge the inquest jury's verdict. Mr Douglas, 25, of Sydenham, south London, died in December 1995 after his arrest as a burglary spspect. Last year a jury in Southwark decided that the death was accidental after heart failure prompted by his arrest. Yesterday it was argued that the coroner did not properly explain to the jury the the possibility of a verdict of unlawful killing. Mr Justice Forbes accepted that this was "an arguably case".

#### Anti-gun cinema advert proceeds

An attempt by shooting enthusiasts to block an anti-gun cinema advertisement failed vesterday. The Advertising Standards Authority said that although it had received 50 complaints about the adverisement, it would not consider them until after the advertisement had been screened. The commercial, funded by Snowdrop, which wants to see handguns banned in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, is to be shown from today.

#### Duke to attend peace exercise

The Duke of York is to visit Zimbabwe from April 15-17 at the invitation of President Mugabe. He will watch Exercise Blue Hungwe, a multinational peacekeeping exercise involving South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania. Britain has contributed £300,000 towards the exercise, and is helping to run it with observers from a British military team based in Zimbabwe.

#### Royal Opera's 'exile' plans

The Royal Opera announced that it would stage nine new productions during its first year away from Covent Garden, while the house is renovated, and played down threats of industrial action over pay. Nicholas Payne, director of the Royal Opera, confirmed that they would present works at the Barbican, the Shaftesbury Theatre, the Albert Hall and the Festival Hall. Placido Domingo will sing Parsifal in a concert performance.

#### Solicitor fined for violin lies

William Bridge, 61, a solicitor, of Chelsea, southwest London, was fined £5,000 by the Solidtors' Disciplinary Tribunal yesterday for lying about a reward which had been offered by an insurance company for the return of a famous antique violin worth £100,000. The violin, the Rocca, disappeared in 1984 just before its owner, a mem-ber of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, was to have taken part in a concert.

Two Plasticine chickens.

## Dry spell turns tending lawn from a pleasure into an exercise in emergency planning

## Gardeners lose unequal battle against drought

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FOR Jenny Woodall it was the lawn which was the first patch of the traditional English garden to be sacrificed in the unequal struggle against the

Now the pansies along with other herbaceous plants are facing replacement by South African and Mediterranean plants able to cope with the bone-dry conditions in her garden near Midhurst, West

For Mrs Woodali, three years of drought have turned gardening into an exercise in emergency planning.

Like thousands of other gardeners across Sussex, Mrs Woodall has been under a long-term sprinkler ban of nearly 12 months and what the regional water company describes as an "unattended hosepipe ban".

She said yesterday: "Trudg-ing across a three-acre gardea with a watering can is not much fun. I do not water the grass any more, i decided it was a pointless excercise. I have been losing trees and shrubs. New plantings are starting to look pretty sad." Southern Water said it hoped to get through the spring and summer without

more draconian restrictions. "But I am not convinced that we won't be on standpipes here given the last couple of serious problem," said Mrs Woodall, whose garden at Nyewood House is part of the National Garden Scheme in which gardens are opened to the public for part of the year.

In an effort to preserve the character of the garden and conserve moisture, she has been putting mulch on the soil over the past three years about three or four lorryloads annually.

switching to Mediterranean plants like Artemisia, which produces "insignificant" flowers, but good foliage. Drought resistant South African flowers are also being considered. "I am thinking about not doing any tubs at all this

al English garden by the drought comes as wildlife experts warned of growing damage to scores of chalk

streams fed by springs.
The damage is highlighted in Wiltshire where the Kennet downstream from Marlborough, is coated in a scum of algal-like growths called diatoms, which thrive on phosphates, man-made pollutants that become concentrated at

times of low flows. shire Wildlife Trust said that instead of being a crystal clear months. It is getting to be a

Mrs Woodall said she was year," she said.

The damage to the tradition-

Gary Mande of the Wiltriver full of water, crowfoot and other freshwater plants,

the Kennet is choking and covered in scum.

"It really is heartbreaking all the fish and birds like kingfishers have disappeared. It is due to a combination of the drought and over-abstraction by the water companies," Mr Mantle said.

He said the lack of water meant so called "winter bournes", tributaries which spring into life at the end of the winter, had dried up. In the case of the Kennet these normally run near places like Avebury and the River Og near Marlborough.

These winter bournes are important nursery waters for trout. Mr Mantle said he feared for crayfish, lamprey. bullhead and other fish species as well as the insect and plant life.

Thames Water wants to increase abstraction on the river but this is opposed by the Environment Agency who want it reduced. A decision by an inspector is expected soon. Yesterday several hundred

brown trout were also rescued from the upper reaches of the River Pang, near Frilsham. Berkshire. The fish were caught by gency staff yesterday and

moved downstream. In the Midlands the agency announced plans to release water from the Shropshire groundwater system and



Jenny Woodall has given up trying to fight the drought and is choosing Mediterranean plants instead

Clywedog dam at the source of the Severn. The river is flowing at a third of its seasonal

The agency also announced restrictions on farmers in the region reducing or banning abstraction.

The early drought is also causing unusual behaviour among animals like badgers. Several county wildlife trusts have been contacted by the public claiming that badgers are entering gardens in search of alternative food because the ground is so hard that they cannot find worms.

## Grassland fires reach record

THE number of fires has reached a record high after a dramatic increase in heath and grassland blazes caused by dry summers, according to figures published yesterday

(Richard Ford writes). The number of fires on heaths and grasslands in-creased by 131 per cent to 174,500 in 1995, with August the peak month for the destruction of gorse, heather and grass

The Home Office, figures highlight the potential risk to heathlands this year if the dry spell continues. The overall number of fires

rose by 26 per cent compared with 1994, to a record 603,600. The number of people who died in fires rose by 16 per cent to 808 in 1995, with 565

fatalities in house blazes. A separate study of fires in the home, based on interviews with 16,500 people over the age of 16, estimated that there were 748,000 house fires in England and Wales in 1995 but only between i2 and 19 per cent were attended by the fire brigade. Two thirds of fires started

in the kitchen and 14 per cent in the lounge. More than half of all the fires in the home were caused by cooking appli-ances or during the preparation of food.

The 1995 British Crime Survey found that fires were more common in areas of poverty. family instability. high unemployment and high levels of rented accommodation and housing density.

## multi-millionaire chairman of

7						
•	DESTINATION	DEP, DATES	AIRPORT	DURATION	BASIS	NOW ONLY
	Maldives	11-25 May	Gatwick	7 nights	Bed & Breakfast	£549
	Seychelles	1 May- 16 May	Manchester	5 nights	Bed & Breakfast	£669
	Kenya Safari	17-29 May	Heathrow	9 nights	Half Board	£699
	Mexico & Tour	30 May- 8 June	Gatwick	14 nights	Room Only	£769
	Barbados & Antigua	17 April- 20 May	Heathrow	13 nights	Room Only	£849
	Bangkok & Bali	4-31 May	Heathrow	11 nights	Room Only	£889
	Barbados	28 April- 4 May	Gatwick	7 nights	Room Only	£899

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the JCB excavator manufacturer as an example of a

business leader who backed Labour's aims. But yesterday Sir Anthony staged a Tory party rally, addressed by John Major at the company's Staffordshire headquarters. "I am not a Labour voter. I haven't been, nor will I be," he

said later, adding: "I think he [Mr Blair] was maybe trying to rope us in with him. But that isn't the case." Sir Anthony thought Mr Blair "impressive", but said there was a huge gap in experience between Labour's leader and Mr

The letter to The Times is signed by five businessmen and women but says 79 other leaders of small companies had asked to be associated with its sentiments. The Conservatives have claimed to be the party of small business but now Labour will say that is no longer so. Labour's business manifes

to, being launched in the City this morning, will include plans to get more private funding into public projects. In its election broadcast last night, three entrepreneurs -Anita Roddick, Sir Terence Conran and Gerry Robinson - and a former Bank of England adviser, Jonathan

## Small firms | IRA tunnel photos prompt resign call

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

UNIONISTS called for the resignation of the head of the Northern Ireland Prison Service yesterday after the publication of photographs which apparently show IRA inmates digging a tunnel in the Maze Prison which was uncovered last month.

The pictures, which were sent to the Belfast news agencv. Pacemaker, show masked terrorists removing soil from the tunnel which stretched 40ft from a block holding republican prisoners. One picture shows a prisoner in the tunnel as he passes a bag of earth to three other inmates at the tunnel entrance. Another shows three masked terrorists standing over a map of Ireland with a compass.

Prison sources said that the pictures looked genuine and seemed to have been taken at an early stage during the construction of the tunnel. A prison officer uncovered the tunnel on March 24. It measured 2.5ft square and stretched to within 30 yards of the prison's main perimeter

Pacemaker, which is Belfast's oldest news picture agency, said that the photographs were dropped through its letterbox. The pictures were published on the front pages of Northern Ireland's three

main newspapers yesterday.

The publication prompted calls for the resignation of Alan Shannon, the controller of prisons in Northern Ireland. Ian Paisley jnr. justice spokesman of the Democratic Unionist Party, said: "The public quite rightly expects heads to roll in this incident. The block was supposed to have been searched after the tunnel was found. Mr Shannon's position is untenable. Either he must provide an explanation or he must go." Finlay Spratt, chairman of

the Northern Ireland Prison Officers' Association, said the pictures showed how lax conditions were at the Maze. He said: "The tunnel was dug because prison officers were not allowed into the living environment of the paramilitary prisoners unless they got their permission."

A prison source said that Mr Shannon would not be resigning. The source said that the Maze housed hundreds of dangerous prisoners none of whom had escaped.

#### Nick Park makes chicken film

Rocky and Ginger, are to be the stars of the first full-length feature film by Nick Park, the British Oscar-winning anima-tor. Park, creator of Wallace and Gromit, will begin work on the 90-minute film next week. Chicken Run is set on a sinister Yorkshire chicken farm in the 1950s. The script is by the playwright Jack Rosenthal. The film will be made at the Aardman animation stu-

ings quite astounded him. He

suspects that study of a larger sample may clear up the

problem and plans to continue

## Twitchers turn gumshoe in odd finding

BY AUDREY MAGEE

ORNITHOLGISTS in Holland and Scotland have discovered something strange is

Bird watchers from both countries have been taking part in a quirky study, which shows that Dutch people more often lose their left clogs to the sea while Scottish fishermen tend to lose their right wellies.

While monitoring dead birds on both sides of the North Sea, ornithologists began to record the shoes found washed up on the shoreline. In Holland, twice as many left shoes are washed up, while in Scotland right shoes significantly outnumber the left shoes found on the coastline.

The footwear study began

pold, a Dutch ornithologist, at an international seabird studies conference in Glasgow. In an article in the Shetland Bird Club Newsletter, Dr Heubeck said: "Dr Leopold claimed it was a little known fact that, due to some physical process or other, more left

ashore on beaches, at least in the Netherlands. "At the time I put this down to him being more used to drinking Heineken than Eighty Shilling, but now Kees Camphuysen's survey on the shores of the Dutch island of Texel seems to bear out his claim." In February Dr Heubeck began counting shoes while undertaking his count of dead birds washed up along 300 miles of Scottish

than right shoes washed

coastline.

footwear items, he turned up 59.6 per cent of right ones on Shetland's shores. The mystery deepened when he discovered that, where only the soles remained, there were more left-footers on the east coast of Shetland than the west.

Dr Heubeck said the find-

gathering sandals, trainers, clogs and wellies on his surveys to monitor the number of birds that are killed by oil pollution.

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Accused was framed in divorce deal

## Husband cleared of attempting to poison wife's tea

THE man accused of trying to harm his wife by putting rat poison in her morning tea vesterday walked free after a jury accepted his claims that she had framed him in order to get a better divorce

The jury at Northampton Crown court took just over two hours to find William Down, 50, not guilty of attempting to administer poison to his wife Linda with intent to injure,

The judge had discharged the jury from giving a verdict on the four original charges of attempting to admininster poison with intent to endanger life. Mr Down, 50, left the dock to be hugged and kissed by the two eldest of the couple's four children, Katherine and Jennifer, who had been in court every day to

support him. Shaking with emotion, Mr Down, a self-employed me-chanic, said outside the court: "I am very relieved. The whole trial has been an enormous ordeal. I just want to get back to a normal life."

Mrs Down, 50, who was

wedding anniversary later this year, had claimed her "mean and obsessive" husband put poison in her tea before taking it to her in bed.

She noticed it started to smell strange and and became wary of her husband when he started to behave in a "really kind and thoughtful way towards her.

Mr Down told the court he and his wife, who he said regularly took herbal remedies, had been experimenting with home-made medical cures. He had carried out his own research after suffering a stroke in May 1993 and knew qualities of warfarin, a bloodthinning agent used in rat

After experimenting with that, he said, they then tried its successor, Difenacoum, which is found in the product Ratak. Mr Down told the jury: "We both took it for three to six months. I did not notice any change in my health but my wife was claiming beneficial

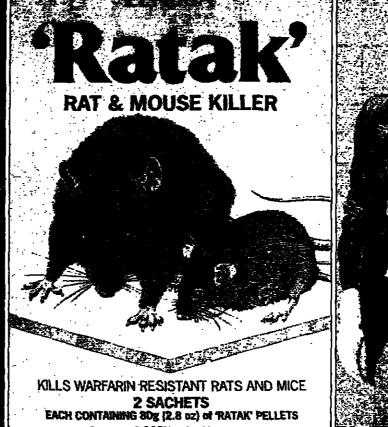
Asked how he took it, Mr Down, who was said to have health after suffering a minor stroke, said: "In the morning tea. I wanted to stop. I did not think it was doing any good.
"She said that she wanted to

carry on so I said that I would put it in her morning tea. She can be very determined. I pretended to put the solution in the tea, but I never did. I moved the bottle around and poured some down the sink. It was all a general pretence."

Mr Down said he had to go to the lounge cupboard where the poison was kept and open and close the door because his wife could hear him from upstairs. He claimed that in bringing the case his wife wanted to frame him in order to achieve a better divorce

During the three-day trial, the jury of seven women and five men was told that the couple's marriage had "hit the rocks" after Mr Down was made redundant in the 1980s. Mrs Down, of Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, claimed her husband was a misogynist who had never got on with his mother and had transferred that dislike to her. She described how, when her





Contains 0.005% w/w drienacoum

Mr Down, right, claimed he had used a substance found in Ratak, a rat poison, to make a health tonic that his wife, left, had found beneficial

husband began taking her two cups of early-morning tea, she kept a jam jar in the bedroom to tip it into once he had left for

Last August, the court was told, she took her samples to the police for analysis. They hid a surveillance camera in the house and three officers who had been hiding in the bushes burst in and arrested Mr Down after seeing him

take the rat poison from the lounge cupboard and into the kitchen as he prepared to make tea and take it to his wife in her flowery white mug. But while traces of Ratak were found in the samples from Mrs Down's jam jar, there were none in the cup he had made that morning.

After the verdict, Mrs Down

refused to come to the door of the semi-detached home she way in which the investigation

band. She was told of the jury's decision in a telephone call from the police. Her youngest son, Christopher, 16, said: "My mother does not want to comment."

Detective Sergeant Mick Neeson, who led the investigation, refused to comment on the outcome of the case. But he said he was satisfied with the was conducted. "Our approach was sensitive and thorough throughout this difficult

☐ Warfarin is an anti-coagulant drug prescribed to prevent blood clotting. It is widely used to prevent strokes and to treat some kinds of heart attack, which are caused by blood clots lodging in the blood vessels of the brain and

oxygen. However, if too high a dose of warfarin is given it can cause abnormal internal oleeding by preventing the blood from clotting.

Regular blood clotting tests are therefore carried out to allow adjustment of the dosage. The drug has the same effect in rats but because they receive an excess dose in food. it works as a poison and they

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## Mistress informed police of lover's 'perfect murder' plot



Teresa Kerwin: the

A MAN who killed his wife believed he had committed the perfect murder until his mistress told police five years later that the death was not an accident, a court was told yesterday.

For five years David Tiernan went unsuspected after an an inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death on his wife, Pauline, in 1989. But in 1994 the lover of the wealthy builder told detectives that he had confessed to her that he had smothered his wife and faked her death to look as if she had been electrocuted by faulty wiring.

Sheffield Crown Court was told yesterday that although Mr Tiernan, 47, was having an affair he killed his

Mrs Tiernan, 38 at the time of her death, ran a gift shop at Hornsea. East Yorkshire. On January 31, 1989, she was found dead face down on the floor by her father, Joseph Clubley, who lived with the family

But in July 1995 the body of the mother of four was exhumed after Teresa Kerwin, Mr Tiernan's lover, told police of his alleged confession. A new post-mortem examination confirmed that death was due to asphyxia. He had allegedly admitted to her that he put his hand over his wife's face, smothering her, before driving off to Hull to set up an alibi. Mr Tiernan denies murder.

Robert Smith, OC, for the prosecu-

There were no marks of violence upon her and various features made it seem at first that she had received an electric shock, from which she died."

He said a pathologist told an inquest in May 1989 that Mrs Tiernan choked on her own vomit as a result of electric shock. The inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. For many years that remained unchallenged, until 1994 when the police began investigations into the death. Teresa Kerwin told them that David Tiernan had admitted to her he had killed his wife by asphyxiating her, then making it appear she had died from an accidental electric shock."

A Home Office pathologist's find-

Tiernan was arrested and charged with the murder. Mr Smith said: "David Tiernan deliberately killed his wife ... The motive is clear. Pauline had developed an affection for another man and David Tiernan was jealous. He was upset by the potential consquences of a divorce on his children, his finances and his standing in public. He told her father if he could

not have her nobody else would." On the day Mrs Tiernan died, their children were at school, two labourers were working at the house and Mr Tiernan and Mr Clubley were at home. Mr Smith said Mr Clubley went to see a friend, Mr Tiernan drove off but returned and killed his wife.



A wedding picture of David Tiernan and his wife.

## Official turned to gambling after losing on lottery

By Stephen Farrell and Audrey Magee

A COUNCIL official who missed out on his office syndicate's EIO million National iackoot has been sacked for alleged fraud after running up huge gambling

Tony George, 35, was dis-nissed from Camden Bormissed Council's homeless persons unit in north London this week after a disciplinary hearing found him guilty of gross misconduct. He was deputy manager of the unit, where 33 officials each won £304,724 in January 1996 on a double rollover lottery

Two weeks before their numbers came up, George, who earned £35,000 a year. had refused to pay the £26 stake, complaining that it was too much. He is said to have sold their names to a tabloid newspaper for £5,000 then turned to gambling on scratchcards, horses and in

Earlier this year he alleged-ly ordered nearly £3,000 of computer equipment without approval, apparently intending to sell it on and keep the money. A senior official reported him to council fraud nvestigators after seeing him receive a parcel from a com-

THE power of prayer is to be tested in an experiment, it emerged yesterday. Out of three groups of 600 patients awaiting

heart surgery, two groups will be told they may be prayed for. One will be prayed for, and the other will not. A third

group will be aware they are being prayed for, and will be used to determine

ger supplied the department. A council spokesman said last night "We have acted swiftly and decisively in this case because Camden never tolerates fraud by its staff. An

gross misconduct. He is believed to have given himself up to police after a senior council officer's suspicions were aroused. Police investigations are continuing into the alleged A Scotland Yard spokesman

officer has been dismissed for

confirmed that a man had been to Mitcham police station in south London on March 22 in connection with alleged misappropriation of funds and was bailed to return on April 24.

Christine Winter, the unit manager and lottery syndicate leader, refused to comment last night. There was no sign of George at his semi-detached three-bedroom mock-Tudor house in Streatham, south

The lottery syndicate all went straight back to work after their win. Two months ago the department was awarded a charter mark for being one of the most efficient in the country by guarantee-ing that their 2,000 annual applicants were seen within 15

gion," he said.

### 'Mrs Merton' star mourns death of ex-boyfriend, 27

CAROLINE AHERNE, the actress who plays the chatshow host Mrs Merton, was being comforted by her family last night after the death of her former boyfriend, Matt Bowers. Mr Bowers, a former sports researcher with Granada television, died of stomach cancer in Hertfordshire, just two months after being diag-nosed with the disease. He

Mr Bowers hit the headlines last year after being involved in a public punch-up with Aherne's ex-husband, Peter Hook, former guitarist with the band New Order and currently in the charts as Monaco. It happened during a



Caroline Aherne:

Let us pray, in the interests of science

is not going into the experiment hoping that there will be a positive effect. We are

just genuinely interested in any experi-

mentation that has a bearing on reli-

positive result, that the group being prayed for, but unaware of this, does

better than the group not being prayed for, that will be extremely interesting. It

would open up whole areas of research.

such as different methods of prayer, and

showing no significant difference be-

tween the groups, would not necessarily

prove that prayer didn't help. He said the

control group - not included in the

prayers of the special team - might pray

for themselves and receive prayers from

Professor Stannard said a null result.

prayer for different illnesses.

Obviously, if it turns out that there is a

chance encounter at the launch of Bill Wyman's Sticky Fingers restaurant in Man-

chester last November. After a heated exchange Mr Bowers reportedly swung a fist at Hook, while the guitarist's new fiancée, Rebecca Jones, looked on in shock. According to some reports, Miss Aherne, who married Mr Hook in July 1994 but left him in April 1996, was accidentally kicked in the stomach in the melée. Mr Bowers resigned from Granada short-

ly afterwards.

Mr Bowers and Miss Aherne first met at Granada when the actress was filming her spoof chat show as Mrs Merton for the BBC. They shared a house in a East Didsbury, Manchester, for several months. They split up

on Boxing Day.
Miss Aherne's agent said last night that she was "terribly upset" at the news. She spent last night with relatives t her family at her home in Manchester, but was too emo-

tional to comment. Granada Television said in a statement: "We are all very saddened at Matt's tragic death so young. We offer our deepest condolences to his family." Miss Aherne is working on a new Granada sitcom

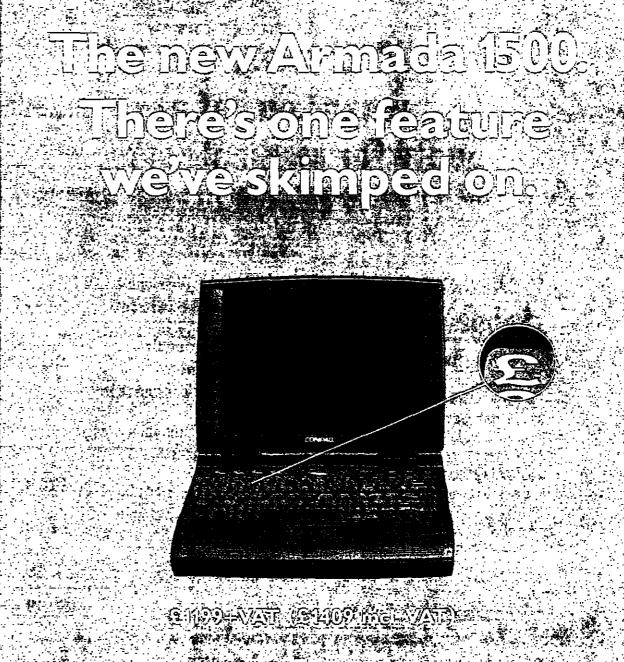
problems if prayer was found to have a

positive result. Prayer could then be

equated with hospital treatment, with

vicars being called on to justify the

closure of hospital wards, he said.



close friends and family. "We can't stop people praying for themselves and, personally, I have a hunch that when people directly involved with the patients are praying, they're going to pray with such fervour and dedication, their pray-

ers will have very much more effect than those of some stranger," he said. In addition to this unaccounted-for prayer, God might prove problematical, according to Professor Stannard. "God's got a will of His own and might decide not to co-operate," he said, conceding that God might not exist. He added that there could also be

The new Armada 1500 range from Compaqhighly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. Apart from core features like a fast Intel Pentiume processor and 16 MB RAM, these notebooks (including the Armada 1510) boast a wealth of fully integrated extras such as an AC adaptor. The

Armada 1520D even incorporates a 10 speed CD-ROM. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little price. Pentium For your brochure pack please phone:

Little Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch

ned are Typical Buying Prices. Photograph shows Armada 1550T, Price quoted refers to Armada 1510. The Intel Inside logo and Pea

if knowledge has a psychosomatic effect on their symptoms. The experiment is being funded by the John Templeton Foundation, a charitable organisation aimed at the progress of religion, of which Russell Stannard, Professor of Physics at the Open University, is one of 12 trustees. Professor Stannard said the purpose of the experiment, to be carried out at three American hospitals for two years, was merely "to find out what happens". "The foundation

## National Trust bans deer-hunting on its land \*

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND ANDREW YATES

THE National Trust yesterday banned deer-hunting on its land in a move that is certain to intensify demands for the abolition of all hunting with dogs, including fox-

hunting and hare coursing.
In a unanimous vote by its 52member governing council, the trust said it would not renew licences for hunting red deer on its land on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills and fallow deer in the New Forest in Hampshire.

Licences for hunting red deer will be allowed to run until they

expire at the end of April, the end of the hunting season. Fallow deer licences have already expired and will not be renewed.

The trust also called on the next Government to investigate the suffering of other wild animals hunted and killed for sport in the light of new scientific evidence that deerhunting is unacceptably cruel.

In the first sign of unease among landowners over the trust's reversal of its traditional neutrality on hunting, Lord Lonsdale, who leases 17,000 acres of the Lake District to the charity for a nominal rent, said he would consider refusing to renew the agreement if there was a ban on fox-hunting on his land. The 7th earl said he was concerned that the trust's decision to ban deer-hunting could lead to a ban on fox-hunting.

The trust insisted yesterday that any decision on fox-hunting would be for Parliament to make rather than its own council, But it had previously said exactly the same about deer-hunting.

The trust's change of policy comes after a two-year study by Patrick Bateson, Professor of ethology at Cambridge University, showing that deer hunted by packs of hounds suffer extreme stress before they are killed. The study

Yesterday National Trust scientists said that foxes hunted with hounds might well be shown to suffer similar stress to that experienced by deer if subjected to the same tests. A comparable study of foxes, taking blood samples from animals after they had been killed. would he feasible, they said, provided the hunts themselves cooperated. Dr Bateson said foxes could not automatically be assumed to respond in the same way as deer because they naturally roamed greater distances and were probably fitter. He said any stress

was commissioned by the trust at a suffered by foxes during hunting cost of £165,000. suffered by foxes during hunting would have to be measured against the welfare implications of alternative means of culling them, such as shooting. Because they were smaller targets, a higher proportion of foxes were likely to be left wounded rather than killed outright.

The council said in a statement that it believed it would be "timely" in the light of the Bateson report for the Government to set up an expert committee to review the findings of the 1951 Scott Henderson report on hunting. Set up by the Attlee Government, the report concluded that the suffering of hunted animals was not sufficient to warrant

any state interference with field sports. Trust members voted seven years ago, albeit by a narrow majority and on a small vote, to ban deer-hunting, but the ruling council had refused to act on the vote until yesterday. Charles Nunneley, trust chairman, said the difference now was that "we have evidence [of animal suffering] that

makes it a matter of scientific fact and not just a matter of emotion." Kevin Saunders, of the Legal Against Cruel Sports, said: "We are delighted. We have been campaigning for this for years. We are now calling upon all political parties to make their positions

clear and ban all types of hunting." The trust ban affects some 15,400 acres in Devon, Somerset and Hampshire. Another 1,900 acres of land owned by the trust on Exmoor is covered by a legally-binding covenant, agreed with the original donor, that hunting should continue. This will not be affected.

Four stag-hunts - the Devon and Somerser Staghounds, the Tiverton Staghounds, Quantock Staghounds and the New Forest Buckhounds - use trust land. The ban could force the Quantock Staghounds to disband and will severely disrupt the Devon and Somerset.

## Exmoor bays for blood of 'ignorant city-dwellers'

SUNLIGHT glinted on hip flasks as members of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds gathered yesterday to toast an Elizabethan tradition and curse their critics.

An isolated corner of Exmoor has been united in opposition against moves to ban the pursuit of red deer. In a gesture of anger and defiance, the hunt fielded a midweek meet record of 200 riders and 500 followers.

High on a hill above the valley where R.D. Blackmore set his novel Lorna Doone, ruddy-cheeked farmers and trippers from as far afield as the West Midlands watched as the hunt cornered a young stag in a copse. Followers have occupied the same vantage point at Pitcombe Down since Elizabeth I declared Exmoor "a royal forest" where her loyal subjects might hunt red deer.

Spluttering with indignation, Peter Locke, a huntmember for most of his 63 years, described the report which revealed the great suffering inflicted on hunting deer as "bloody vexing". He described Dr Patrick Bateson. who conducted the research. as "a vegetarian troublemak73-year-old farmer in a new Range Rover choked on his sandwich at the mention of the National Trust. "Tis a disgrace. Hunting red deer is a central part of our way of life. What do city people know about us and keeping pests like them under control? If they ban it. Exmoor will die. Many around here depend on

the hunt for their livelihood." In the Doone Valley below, the hounds bayed as the hunt moved on. Once again their quarry, a fleet-footed young stag, had evaded his tormentors. Not for long though. An hour later it was cornered by

hounds before being shot. John Burrow, a foot follower for most of his life, applauded the speed of the stag. He also castigated the National Trust over the move to limit his hunt's country by at least 12,000 acres.

The Devon and Somerset performs a vital function on Exmoor. Unless you control the red deer, crops would be devastated, worse still, bundreds of people who rely on the bunt for their livelihood would go under." he said. "There's not one single

farmer on National Trust land here who supports a ban. They love the deer but know



Foot followers had cheered the hunt at the meet an hour or so earlier. They too were furious over the threat to their field sport. Jim Palmer, who travelled to Exmoor from West Sussex yesterday "to show solidarity", was white with rage. "It makes me so angry. Stag hunting has been a way of life here since the days of Good Queen Bess. The National Trust ban means that the deer will have a much wider area to range over - they are not stupid. They will cause havoc and

where is the sense in that?" The hillside beech woods, heather and gorse provide ideal cover for the red deer, say hunt members. Quite often the Devon and Somerset

kill. Diana Scott, yesterday's joint master, was full of admiration for their prey. "I love the deer and that's the paradox: the love of deer is linked with the love of the chase. Hunting keeps the deer's natural awareness alive. To take away that wildness would be terrible. The depth of knowledge among those who live among them is incredible. The deer are at the very heart of Exmoor," she said.

At yesterday's meet - there are only half a dozen or so left before the season ends - Tom Yandle, the chairman of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, rallied his troops in the face of defeat. He said he was unable to accept the

Trust report. "Any ban without a mutually agreed deer management scheme would cause immense suffering for the herd and the people who farm this land," he added.

In Exford, home to the hunt kennels and stables, there was fury last night at the han. John Kent, the Devon and Somerset's farrier, said the area would be blighted.

"My yard will be empty without the hunt. I will lose 75 per cent of business and have to lay off the two people I employ. In fact, I'll probably have to look for another job. I don't hunt myself, but I know that it is vital here economically and environmentally. Who are these people who destroy a vital piece of rural

## Veteran huntsman fights back

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A FORMER Lord Justice of Appeal, who at the age of 79 has to be hoisted on his horse to ride to hounds, is leading the fight by the West Country deer-hunting community against scientific evidence which claims to show that the

sport is unacceptably cruel. Sir Robin Dunn, who lives near Porlock in Somerset, said it was outrageous that the National Trust had decided to ban deer-hunting on the property it owned without bothering to consult the hunts or those who had donated land for hunting. "I retired early

from the Court of Appeal in 1984 so that I could spend more time deer-hunting." he said. "I have been hunting with the Devon and Somerset Staghounds for 55 years and still turn out occasionally."

The family of Sir Robin's

wife gave 3,000 acres on Exmoor to the trust in 1934 with a covenant that hunting should continue there. Sir Robin also chairs the Badgworthy Land Company, which owns 7.000 acres on Exmoor, with hunting rights over a further 50,000 acres. Sir Robin said he had no plans to give up hunting in the

Bateson, nor did he see why anyone else should, "My own experience is at variance with some of what is in the report. I do not accept that deer are sedentary animals not used to running far.

"Farmers down here cair" recognise individual deer. They say they often see a deer that has been hunted grazing contentedly on its home patch a day or two later as if nothing

had happened." The National Trust said it had, no legal power to breach the covenant covering the land donated by the family of Sir Robin's wife, but hoped he ould reconsider his vie

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## Mercenary leader says rebels put gun to head

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE former British Army colonel whose team of 65 heavily armed mercenaries was hired by the Papua New Guinea Government to help put down a nine-year rebellion told yesterday how he was threatened with death when he was detained by a break-away element of the country's

Tim Spicer, a former lieutenant-colonel of the Scots Guards, said he was assaulted after he and his fellow mercenaries had been seized by soldiers who rebelled against the decision of Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, to bring in mercenaries to quell the secessionist guerrilla war in the tiny island of

Bougainville. Mr Spicer was talking for the first time after returning home from his ordeal. He was released from detention this week when firearm charges against him were dropped. At Hilton hotel in Park Lane. Mr



berries 227g for 69p.

Spicer, supported by his wife, Caroline, admitted that his company, Sandline International, had purchased massive firepower as part of the deal to help the Papua New Guinea In a quiet voice, Mr Spicer,

Government in its conflict with the Bougainville rebels. Under the \$36 million



Spicer: ordeal after

launchers. heavy array of weapons to make up for the country's lack of

who was Military Assistant to General Sir Michael Rose when he was Commander of UN forces in Bosnia, agreed that he and his team fitted the strict definition of mercenaries but he denied they were the nasty stereotypes - the "Rambos and Dogs of War". During his captivity, the former British officer had an

automatic pistol put to his head on several occasions and spent several days in a barred cell. He said he was threatened when he refused to cooperate with his captors.

The helicopters and other weapons have remained in Papua New Guinea, and Mr Spicer is now trying to negotiate with Papua New Guinea to ensure that Sandline gets its outstanding £12 million or the return of the equipment.

#### Judge hit car while five times over limit

By Frances GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE whose car was hit by a crown court recorder nearly five times over the legal limit for drinking and driving demanded yesterday that he be dismissed and jailed.

A Range Rover driven by John Reeder, QC, 48, who sits as a part-time crown court judge, hit a car belonging to Cliff Simmonds, a former fireman, and his girlfriend Tina Carpenter at 10.45am. They suffered whiplash and minor cuts and bruises when their Toyota Celica cartwheeled down the A435 near

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Mr Simmonds, 48, said: He should be jailed. A man in his position should set an example. How can he sit in judgment on others after this?" Reeder, of Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex, admitted drink-driving and was freed on unconditional bail after Cheltenham magistrates

The Lord Chancellor's Department said the case would be considered after the court had imposed sentence. In 1994 the Lord Chancellor made clear that drink-driving was to be regarded as "so grave" as to amount to misbehaviour, for judges can

#### Soft fruit may not be green 900g for £3.39, family pork pie 99p, frying steak £5.38 per kg, chestnut mushrooms 227g for 66p, baking potatoes £5p a lb. Spanish straw-£2.99. Indian balti meals 400g for £1.99. Celtic cabbage 29p each, canteloupe melons 99p cach.

Safeway: pork chops eight (900g) for £3.99, Scottish salmon steaks 570g for £3.99, cucumbers 49p each, tomatoes 49p a lb, white tin bread 800g for 49p, grapes 99p a lb,strawberries 454g for £1.19.

Sainsburys: turkey steaks four (500g) for £2.99, Danish unsmoked rindless back bacon 500g for £1.95

new potatoes 19p a lb. straw-berries 450g for £1.39, Somerfield: sirloin steak £8.15 per

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH strawberries are perforating the ozone layer. The Food Commission, a consumer watchdog group, found that only the Co-op, Safeway and Asda of the leading food stores said that some of their strawberries this year would be produced without using methyl bromide, a pesticide that harms the ozone layer. Even then the environmentally-friendly fruit will not be labelled as such.

Strawberries grown in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark are produced without methyl bromide. Advertised promotions in-

Asda: honeless pork leg £2.99 per kg, chicken L8kg for £3.49, preun cod fillets in batter 600g for 62.85, cauliflower 55p each, strawberries 420g for 99p. Budgens: sirloin steak E9.00 per

eg, unsmoked Dutch back bacon rashers 250g for £1.49, roast turkey breast 69p a 4 lb, tomatoes 750g

WEEKEND

Harrods: That fried aubergine 100g for £1.59. That special needles

100g for 99p. That chicken and mango salad 100g for £2.29.

leeland: pork chops 1.36kg for

E3.49, salmon fish cakes eight for 99p, hake fillets 680g for E1.99,

chicken chow mein 300g for 90p, beef in blackbean sauce 340g for

99p, strawberry cheesecake 490g

for £1,49, Irish Cream liqueur gateau eight portions for £2,99, Kwik Save: Grampian chicken 3 to 3.4kg for £4.49, Birds Eye garden peas 907g for £1.25, Bonne Maman strawberry jam 340g for £1.25. Marks & Spencer: pizzeria-style tomato and three cheese pizza 390g for £1.99, panacotta pot dessert 140g for 79p, rich Italian ground

SHOPPING

coffee 227g for E1.99. Morrisons: braising steak £3.72 per kg. topside/silverside £4.16 per kg. pork chops £3.06 per kg. frozen

kg, chicken steaks 158g for 99p. Quorn peppered grillsteaks 196g for £1.40, asparagus tips 125g for £1.64, new scason English mini cucumber 29p each, Ottoman fran gipanes six for 79p. Tesco: boncless shoulder of pork £2.46 per kg. rump steak £7.99 per kg. lamb half leg £5.99 per kg. smoked haddock £2.47 a lb. whole lemon sole £2.49 a lb, cooked mussels 55p a 4 lb, strawberries 454g for 99p.

Waitrose free-range chickens up to 2.3kg £2.99, diced braising beef 500g for £2.59, spiced pork sausages eight for £1.35, red onions 69p a lb, purple sprouting broccoli 400g for 69p, aubergines 75p a lb, Bon Rouge pears 59p a lb,

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West in S.D.

## ·Leave us in peace, vicar begs woman behind hate letters

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A VICAR yesterday told of a three-year hate campaign by a mystery woman who has bombarded him with letters, signing off with the words

The Rev John Ball, 55, has received more than 200 hate letters and obscene or silent telephone calls since he took over the parish of Hoylake, Merseyside, three years ago.

The letters, up to 12 pages long, accuse the vicar of having an affair with a teenage girl who occasionally attends the church. Some were written in lipstick. On one occasion a pornographic video was pur through the letter box.

His wife, Ruth, wrote an anguished letter to the parish newslener, The Beacon, pleading for the mystery writer to stop. She blamed the stress of ne intimidation for causing a her husband's heart condition. which requires a triple bypass

An intensive surveillance and forensic operation by Merseyside Police has failed to result in a conviction.

Mr Ball, said: "The first anonymous letter I had, which was not particularly offensive, arrived three months after 1 became vicar of Hovlake. Before long I was being bombarded with four or five thoroughly obscene letters a

The writer mentioned a a voung woman who was "inap-

**Protesters** 

must leave

•runway site

By TIM JONES

11 vac

wer iii

propriately dressed and not there for the right purpose". Eventually Mr Ball became alarmed and approached the church wardens, the Bishop of Birkenhead and the police. All agreed that the best approach was to do nothing.

However, the hate campaign reached such a pitch that, at the request of the police, he brandished a bundle of letters in the pulpit and told the congregation that the writer had insulted every aspect of his faith and ministry. Even more seriously, he said, she was trying to destroy the church.

"Since then I have realised that the culprit may have been present, joining in our worship and receiving Holy Communion from me," Mr Ball

The letter writer changed tactics and, just before Easter 1995, clergy in Hoylake and Meols received letters purporting to come from the young woman. They alleged that the vicar was abusing her and that this was making her suicidal. The letters were so convincing that the young woman received telephone

calls offering help.
Mr Ball said: "The girl was devastated by this. She was at a crucial stage of her education and, imagine, someone rings up and says 'I hear you are trying to commit suicide'."

Thomas Eaton, the church warden, said that Mr Ballhad The letters stopped a year the sympathy and support of the congregation.

Neville Gimson, 72. church secretary, said: "It must be the work of a complete nutcase. No one knows any reason for it. While the letters were coming John was a very worried man. He was certainly under strain.

A spokesman for Merseyside Police said: "The police investigation is now closed because of insufficient evidence to carry on. If any further evidence comes to light the inquiry will be reopened."

ago after Mr and Mrs Ball received an anniversary card

from the woman. Then, last

October, a pornographic video

called Bon Appetit arrived. Mrs Ball said the title was

ironic because it arrived in the

week of harvest supper, when

Mrs Ball also blamed the stress for a malignant tumour

they traditionally cooked for

that will eventually blind her in one eye. "I would like the

perpetrators to know the out-

come of their evil work," she

said in the newsletter. "I hope

her husband had been healthy

before coming to the area.

They had enjoyed fell walking

before he first became ill while

walking on Ben Nevis. "Both

the GP and cardiologist have

said the stress of the last three

years has been a great contrib-

utory factor to this," she said. People say these people are

mentally deranged and sick but I think that is an insult to

people who really are ill. I just

hope they stop it and show my

husband some respect at a

difficult time. It would also be

The couple have received

nice if they showed remorse."

support from the Bishop Suf-

fragan of Birkenhead, the

Right Rev Michael Langrish.

and the Bishop of Chester, the

Right Rev Peter Forster.

Mrs Ball said that she and

they are now satisfied."

A spokesman for the two bishops said: They have known about this situation since the letters arrived and have tried to offer whatever support they could in a very difficult situation for Mr Ball



writes). As four models lay in promotion re-

striking poses on the white leather sofa. one of them yawned and rolled over. Within moments a crowd of shoppers had gathered around the display at Selfridges in Oxford Street, London. The eight models taking part in the store's "Living in a on their mobile telephones.

sponded to a magazine advertisement for "lively performance artists". The models, who will live in the shop's 14 main windows for five days next week, will amuse themselves by reading books and magazines, surfing the Internet and ringing friends

Neil Sheppeck, 21, a drama student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, plans to spend the week learning his lines for a production of Macbeth. "I'm not bothered about people staring at me, after all I do want to be an actor," he said. His

only complaint, shared by the three other models who were testing out the displays yesterday, was the heat. "It's like an oven in that window. I just hope the weather gets a bit colder." The volunteers, who will be paid £250 each for working Monday to Saturday, will do 90-minute shifts

hopes to complete some Spanish homework for her course at Bromley College. southeast London. Nicky Eadon, 20, who works in Selfridges women's clothes department, views it as just another modelling job. She has modelled for a boutique

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THE Bible is not the book of PROTESTERS occupying the site of Manchester airport's planned second runway yesterday lost their court battle to avoid eviction from the site. A judge at the High Court sitting in Manchester granted applications for possession orders by the airport and contractors

waiting to start work on the £172 million project. The protesters, who were occupying a network of trees and tunnels on the site in the Bollin Valley near Styal, Cheshire, said they planned an immediate appeal against the decision.

The possession orders were granted to the airport and contractors AMEC and Tarmac by Judge David Shan-Hooper, 23, alias Swampy, and more than 50 other campaigners who declared themselves as part of the court action.

Hooper was not at the hearing yesterday because he was appearing before magistrates in Crewe, where he was fined £400 after admitting attempting to damage a fence on the site of the proposed runway, and £150 for breach of a conditional discharge. He was ordered to pay £50 costs. 'Forbidden fruits' of Bible revealed

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

peace, love and justice that everyone imagines but a collection of tales of violence. adultery, incest, rape, torture and murder, the details of which have been banned, censored or suppressed over the centuries, a new book claims.

In a new version of Bible stories, Jonathan Kirsch claims to have re-inserted explicit and graphic details of sadism, mutilation and decention. His version recounts Lot committing incest with his daughters, child molestation and sex as a matter of politics and diplomacy rather than

From Genesis, he describes the rape of Dinah by a lovesick Canaanite prince, followed by the circumcision of every man in the prince's kingdom, and the mass murder of these men by Dinah's vengeful brothers. From Judges, he takes the stories of the mercenary Jepthah who sacrificed his only daughter Sheila to God for

victory in battle, and of a "traveller" who gives his lover to satisfy the lust of a mob. After she is killed, he takes her body home and dismembers it, sending the pieces to the four corners of Israel in the

hope of inciting a war of revenge. From Samuel, he describes the rape of the Princess Tamar by her halfbrother Amnon, the eldest son of King David.

Kirsch, a book critic for the Los Angeles Times, who has been studying the Bible for more than 20 years, says: The frank descriptions of human passion in extremis that are preserved in the Book of Samuel are mostly overlooked by pious Bible readers, who seem to prefer David's psalms to his sexual adventures."

He says that over the centuries, embarrassed rabbis, priests and ministers have hidden the plain language of the original Hebrew behind euphemisms, unlikely interpretations or mistranslations.

Today most Bibles are unexpurgated and most of the translations are largely accurate and unabashed, but casual readers rarely find their way to the forbidden stories of the Bible because they simply do not know such stories exist and do not bother to look for

them," he says. The Harlot By the Side of the Road, Forbidden Tales of the Bible, Jonathan Kirsch. Rider, £18.99, published June 5.

success with tourists seeking

atmosphere. In the Glasgow

original, the atmosphere is

helped along by a display of

the heads of John Major, Margaret Thatcher and

Bonnie Prince Charlie on





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#### Jock confronts Irish invaders gin. Instead, Jock's will estab-Glasgow and Inverness named Jock Tamson's. By ALAN HAMILTON which have enjoyed some

SCOTLAND. like the rest of Europe, is being invaded by Irish theme pubs with spurious names such as Scruffy O'Murphy's and Paddy McGinty's A Glasgow brew ery has decided to retaliate by launching a counter-measure a Scottish theme pub.

All theme pubs are ersatz versions of a non-existent real thing. The new Jock's Bar in Aberdeen, being refurbished in tartan and hot haggis at a cost of £200,000 by Tennents' Taverns, will have none of the flavour of a real Scottish pub: no fights, head-butting, nasty sweet keg beer, inedible food, or a landlord's look that says "sassenach nancy-boy" if you ask for ice and lemon in your

lish unthinkably untradition-al practices: staff in kilts, good food including haggis, stovies and mince and tatties, occasional patches of tartan on the walls, and a particularly repellent abomination of recent nvention - scented whisky.

Pubs in Scottish cities are now as varied and sophisticated as anywhere, and few of them have the tartan wallpaper and plastic claymores that were once the hallmark of big brewery interior design. The best Scottish pubs, such as Milne's in Edinburgh or the Horseshoe Bar in Glasgow. have only ever played themselves, and have not succumbed to "theming".

Jock's is modelled on Tennents' theme pubs

bloody spikes, while a tape of Billy Connolly profanities plays in the gents' toilet. Keith Parsons, of Tennents said: "We don't want the tourists to love them and the locals to hate them. The nationalist theme is gentle. and a bit of fun." Tennents, a subsidiary of the English brewers Bass, denies that the

Scottish pubs are an attempt

to fight off the Irish theme

## Carey says school tables may harm moral education

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHURCH leaders united yesterday to give a warning of the long-term dangers to society from too much competition

between schools. The Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, told a London conference that there was a risk that schools would "ease off" on moral and spiritual education to concentrate on improving their positions in league tables. Professor Gerald Grace, di-

rector of the Centre for Research and Development in Catholic Education, took up the theme, asking whether Catholic schools could strike a balance between "moral pur-pose and institutional survival". He joined Dr Carey in backing plans for national guidelines on moral values.

Catholic schools respond to contemporary market values in education and to the issues of institutional survival which they generate, a conflict of values is likely to result. Stated in the starkest form, it could be argued that there is little market yield or return for schools that continue to operate a preferential option for the poor."

The new climate was creating dilemmas for Catholic schools both over admissions and exclusions, Professor Grace said. Head teachers' traditional reluctance to exclude pupils was being tested

by the need to maintain discipline.

The conference, at London University's Institute of Education, focused on the proposals by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority on values in education. Dr Carey said: "It is precisely because there are many pressures to make education more utilitari-an - a better bargain for UK plc — that all of us, including teachers, need to insist on a

balanced and rounded concept of education." Dr Carey urged schools to teach more about marriage as the ideal form of the family.



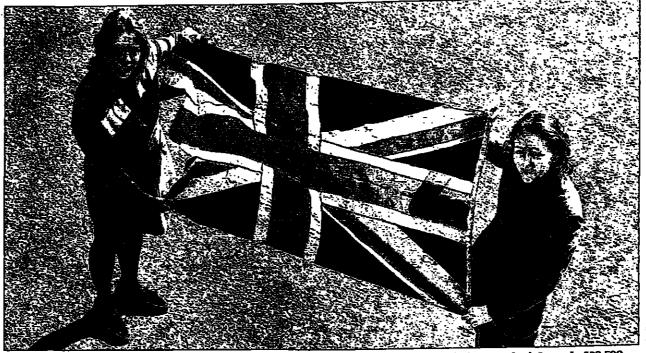
Carey: risk of easing off on spiritual values

building on the statement of values produced by a 150strong national forum convened by the authority. The forum declared its support for marriage as the traditional form of the family, whilst recognising that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of

other kinds". Dr Carey acknowledged that the statement stopped short of prescription about marriage, because it sought to describe the "shared values of a wide cross-section of society". There would be much he would encourage schools to add on the importance of marriage and the conditions

needed for it to flourish. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers certainly are trying to convey to youngsters the difference between right and wrong ... A real sensitivity on this issue is how you promote a moral code in respect of marriage. There has to be a recognition that in many of our schools, a lot of the youngsters are from one-parent homes.'

But the Tory MP Harry Greenway, a former head teacher, said it was a "dereliction of duty" for schools not to present marriage as the ideal.



## Shackleton's flag flies high at sale

By JOHN SHAW

A STAINED Union Jack, frayed by fierce Antarctic winds, was sold for £20,500, five times the estimate, at Christie's in London yesterday. It was taken by Sir Ernest Shackleton on his famous 1907-09 expedition and flew at the furthest point south reached by man at the time, 97 miles from the Pole. The souvenir was bought by John Levinson, an Ameri-

can ship's surgeon and great admirer of Shackleton (1874-1922). The sale of explorers' memorabilia also included a sprig of artificial holly, which decorated a plum pudding the size of a cricket ball, which Shackleton took to celebrate Christmas on his first polar journey, as part of Scott's



expedition of 1901-1903. The holly was bought for £4,025

along with the ration bag which was offered with it on

behalf of two villages in

Dingle and Annascaul are

hoping to set up a memorial-

Ernest Shackleton, left, and his fellow explorers pose with the flag on the expedition centre commemorating Irish and Anglo-Irish antarctic explorers including Shackleton, who was born in Co Kildare, and Tom Krean, who came

> from Dingle. Dr Levinson, president of the Explorers Club of New

- a gentieman, a good captain and a man who

York between 1985 and 1987 said afterwards: "I am so excited to have bought this flag. Shackleton was my hero and the epitome of the true

### Builder put stolen antiques in garden

By A STAFF REPORTER

suburban garden into a miniature stately home complete with urns worth £20,000 be-longing to the Duke of Rut-land, and ornaments collected by Lord Byron, a court was

told yesterday.
Police who raided Malcolm
Berry's bungalow also found a 1695 stone sundial stolen from a private collection and leadwinged statues stolen from Caunton Grange near New-

ark, Nottinghamshire. Crown Court was told that the antiques Abbey, near Mansfield, ancestral home of Lord Byron: Belvoir Castle, home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland; Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, former residence of the Lord Brownlow family; and Fulbeck Hall near Sleaford.

A lead child satyr that was taken from the grounds of Newstead Abbey had been collected by the 5th Lord

BUILDER turned his Byron in 1784, Ian Way, for the prosecution, said. Mr Way said that the coun-

try houses had been targeted by a gang of antique thieves during 1995 and 1996. The ornaments were taken to Berry's home near Mansfield, which was used as a "safe

When interviewed by police, Berry at first claimed he had put the ornaments into safe keeping after finding them inside the gateway of his property. But later he tol detectives: "I have been stupid. They are a bit iffy."

Mr Way said that all the items had been returned to their rightful owners. Berry, 56. who admitted seven charges of handling stolen goods, escaped a prison sentence after Judge Hopkin was told that a son, Paul, committed suicide last October. The judge accepted that Berry's wife was clinically depressed and needed her husband's

## Froten Line. Man who raped his daughters gets life

A 34-year-old man who raped two of his daughters after downloading images of child sex from the Internet has been jailed for life. His wife, 33, who was addicted to hardcore pornography and joined in the physical and sexual abuse of the girls, was sent to prison for 15 years at Swansea Crown

They made videos of their eldest daughter, who was raped once a week from her 12th birthday, being beaten and sexually assaulted. The couple's five children, aged from 1 to 15, are in care.

#### Guerin arrest

Police made their sixth arrest in three days in the investigation into the murder in Dublin last June of Irish crime reporter Veronica Guerin. A man was detained early yesterday. They are already questioning a couple arrested as they arrived in Dun Laoghaire by ferry on Wednesday, and three men.

#### Pool claim fails 🛕

A trespasser who was para-lysed for life when he dived into a school swimming pool and hit his head has lost a claim for damages. Mr Justice Butterfield ruled at Bristol Crown Court that Steve Webb, 24, of Truro, Cornwall, knew he was carrying out "an extremely dangerous" course

#### Burns blaze

An 18th-century thatched cot-tage where the poet Robert Burns worked has been badly damaged in an arson attack. Firefighters managed to save many of the paintings and artefacts displayed at the The Heckling Shop gallery and museum in Irvine, Ayr. Burns worked at the cottage dressing flax during most of 1781.

#### Home on a disk

The splendours of an English stately home have been brought to life on a CD-Rom. The disk provides a guided tour of Holkham Hall, an 18th century mansion on the Norfolk coast that has been home to seven generations of the Earls of Leicester. The tour includes commentary, music and 300 photographs.

#### Ale Bopp brew

A brewer has named his latest beer after the Hale-Bopp comet. Ale Bopp, brewed by Alan Thomson, of the Old Chim neys brewery in Market Weston. Suffolk, will be in selected pubs until the comet leaves the solar system. The beer, said to be very hoppy, will be launched at the Bury St Edmunds beer festival today.

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## THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL II 1997

## Frozen landscape points to life on Jupiter's moon

SCIENCE EDITOR

THE strongest evidence yet that Jupiter's moon Europa may contain life has come from images taken by the Galileo spacecraft.

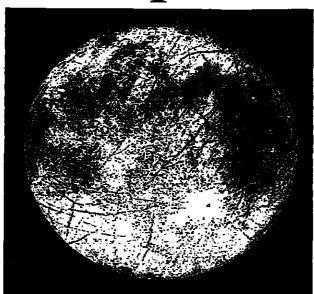
Iceberg-like structures and flat white areas, looking strikingly similar to the scenery in the Arctic, suggest that be-neath the ice lies an ocean of liquid water. If so, there is a good chance that simple life forms may have evolved there.

The newly released pictures. taken in recent months, are by far the most detailed yet of Europa. These are really mind-blowing pictures." said Richard Terrile, an astronomer at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "How often is an ocean discovered? ... There is very strong evidence that there is an ocean here.

"It looks as though we found the smoking gun that points at this sub-surface ocean," Michael Carr, a geologist with the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California, said, Dr Carr said that the icy blocks shown in the pictures, each two to tour miles across. appeared to have drifted apart. You can push them back together to reconstruct the original pattern," he said.

ind claim a

This evidence of movement adds weight to the idea that underneath the frozen crust is a warm watery or slushy layer. The ice itself is probably about a mile thick, with the water below it rich in salts and other chemicals. Asked at a



Astronomers are planning to build a submersible spacecraft to explore beneath Europa's icy surface

press conference if this water could contain life, Dr Terrile said: "The water's probably bouillon, but we don't know if it's chicken soup."

Many scientists now believe that life on Earth may have begun at the bottom of the oceans, where liquid magma (molten rock) bubbles up, creating deep-sea vents or "smokers". Relatively high temperatures and the presence of many salts around the vents provide a good place for complex chemicals to develop.

In this week's Science, two

German scientists support the

theory with experiments con-

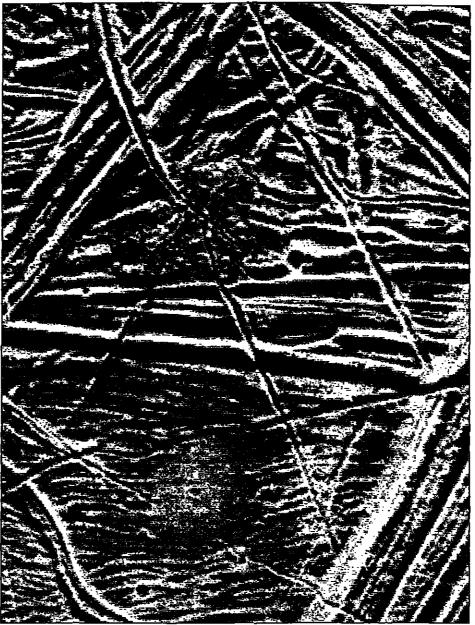
ducted in the laboratory. They added iron nickel sulphide to the model ocean in their experiments, as it is found in deep-sea vents, and found that it catalysed the conversion of gases into compounds containing bonds between carbon atoms, the first step towards

Hard evidence that Europa does contain life can only come from a purpose-built spacecraft that could penetrate the ice and explore the water there. The first plans for such a craft have already been made by an international

group of scientists who met in Pasadena yesterday. It would be 4ft 6in long and 6in in diameter, and would carry a small tethered submersible vehicle that would emerge when it sensed water and radio back a chemical analysis

Nobody expects to find large life forms in Europa's oceans, but even the discovery of a humble bacterium would be remarkable. Oceanographer John Delaney of the University of Washington, who stud-ies life near the Earth's deep sea vents, is enthusiastic about such a probe. Asked if the latest pictures were enough to convince him that there is life on Europa, he gave two re-plies. Speaking as a scientist, he said that Nasa and oceanographers could devise experiments to answer the question. But, speaking from the heart, he said: "I'm sure there's life." □ A solar flare on Monday sent an immense bubble of superheated gas towards the Earth at almost 2 million mph, but it is not expected to do any damage. Such flares can cause power black-outs. damage satellites, and disrupt communications, but this one was relatively small.

Its main interest is that it was the first flare to be observed forming at close quarters, by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory satellite. Much bigger flares are expected over the next few years as the Sun reaches the most active part of its 11-year



Galileo's image of Europa shows what scientists believe to be a frozen surface. possibly covering an ocean of liquid water. The flat area at the bottom shows where melt water has apparently broken through the ice and spread out before freezing

#### **Pensioners** insist they are no bunch of swells

AN INSURANCE company proposal for pensioners to be called SWELS — seniors with energetic lifestyles — has been greeted with derision by se

nior citizens. Norwich Union, which sells thousands of pensions, chose the name from a competition after deciding the word pensioner was outdated and needed replacing because of its association with Zimmer frames, bathchairs and cardigans. But indignant pensioners yesterday made it clear they have no desire to be known by an acronym which suggests they are champagne-

swilling toffs.

Jack Thain, general secre-tary of the National Pensioners' Convention, which has two million members, said stereotyped along with Yuppies and Dinkys. Mr Thain, 75, who rides a motorcycle and plans to do a parachute jump, said: "I could out-swell any of Norwich Union's swells. Folk in British Legions and Derby & Joan clubs will be choking on their tea and biscuits when they hear this suggestion.

"During the 1920s, the word swells was given to the nouveau riche, showing off their ill-gotten gains. Swells were not aristocrats or working people. They were more like loud-mouthed spivs."

Clive Burton, of the Associa-tions of Retired Persons Over 50, said: "I can't see it catching on. A lot of our members like being called recycled teen-

Baroness Castle of Blackburn, 86, the veteran Labour campaigner, dismissed SWELS as "ugly, confusing and altogether unacceptable". She said: "The word pensioner implies that people have contributed to and worked for their income. At a time when we are lighting for the rights of pensioners it is better to

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leave the word unchanged." Liz Watson, for Norwich Union, said: "A lot of people see retirement as a chance for travel, seeing more of relatives and taking up new hobbies. We want people to think more positively about retirement."

## Obese men run greater risk of prostate cancer

FAT men as well as fat women may be at greater risk of developing cancers of their reproductive system.

Doctors have been searching for 30 years for the explanation of the clear link between obesity and cancers of the breast and the lining of the uterus. An extensive survev in Sweden, reported in the journal of the National Cancer Institute and Pulse. that studied 135,000 construction workers for more than 18 years, found that overweight men were 1.4 times more likely to die of cancer of the prostate than their thinner workmates. Both the inci-



and the death rate from the tumour were higher in obese men but the figures also showed that the tumour was more likely to have a fatal outcome when the patient was

Obesity is also associated with cancer of the gall bladder, and diet plays a role in the development of cancer of

the digestive tract and weight is difficult to quantify as so often one of the first symptoms is weight loss.

The relationship between diet and cancer was discussed extensively at the meeting in Crete this week of cardiologists and nutritionists. The Mediterranean diet, containing large quantities of fruit

oil rather than saturated fat. is very similar to that recommended by the American Cancer Society.

The role of olive oil in

cancer prevention may be-come more clear after this week's conference in Rome, when its dietary benefits are being assessed. In Italy, Spain and Greece it has been shown that there is an inverse relationship between the amount of olive oil eaten and breast cancer - maybe because olive rather than a saturated one but it is possible that one or more of the 200 compounds in olive oil has cancer protecfound in some fresh fruit and vegetables. As the Mediterranean diet is rich in vegetables and fruit, it is hard to tease out which provide its advantages.

It has been supposed that different hormone levels in fat and thin people account for changes in the incidence of cancer of the breast and the prostate. The Swedish research workers have also suggested that it is probably hormonal differences that explain their findings in pros-

> DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

#### Hidden dangers of hormone therapy

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HORMONE replacement therapy, taken by thousands of menopausal women, may make breast cancer harder to detect in its earliest stages. One in ten cases of breast

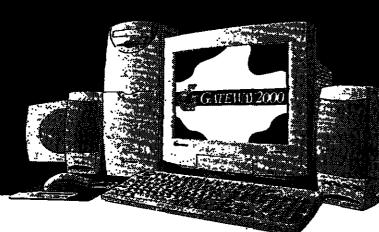
cancer may escape detection during screening because the female hormone oestrogen, the main constituent of HRT. increases the density of the breast tissue, making it harder to pick up cancerous changes, researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund say.

Dr Valerie Beral and col-

mary, Oxford, say that among women aged 50 to 64, who are screened every three years under the NHS programme, the number of "interval" can- detected between screenings — is increasing.

The incidence of interval cancers is higher in women aged 50-59, who are more likely to be on HRT. "These results indicate that among women screened in the United Kingdom in 1990, about 700 extra interval cancers would have been diagnosed," the authors say in *The Lancet*.

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Berlin judge says Iranian clerics were part of plot to wipe out dissidents abroad

## Germany fearful of revenge as hit squad is jailed

GERMANY braced itself for revenge attacks yesterday after four members of an franian-led hit squad were jailed for the murder of Iranian Kurdish leaders in a Berlin restaurant

"Europe's policy of critical dialogue died today in this courtroom," said Shaheen Gobbadi, a spokesman for the Iranian Resistance Council, a view that was echoed through much of the German political establishment.

In a crowded, heavily pro-tected courtroom. Judge Frithiof Kubsch left no doubt that the 1992 assassinations was masterminded by the

Iranian regime.
Two of the killers received life imprisonment, a third was jailed for II years, and the fourth was jailed for five years

and three months. The most controversial element of the sentencing was the way the judge pointed the finger at the Iranian regime. Ali Fallahian, the Intelligence Minister, for whom a German been issued, was said by the

In a statement that was certain to trigger anger in Iran, Judge Kubsch said senior clerics were also part of

the plot.
"The Iranian Government was not in the dock," the judge said at the outset of the trial. But, he said, it was critical to

> **6** Europe's policy of 'critical dialogue' died today in this courtroom 9

the case to show who first conceived of the murders and made them possible. The evidence heard over three and a half years suggested that the decision to kill dissidents abroad had been taken by the highest echelons of Iran's

As soon as Judge Kubsch

assassination, Iranian emigrés in the courtroom burst into applause. One dashed to inform hundreds of demonstrators outside, resulting in a huge roar of approval that could be heard inside.

Judge Kubsch said the key assassin was Kazem Darabi, a 38-year-old Iranian agent, who had contacts with his country's embassy in Bonn. Darabi was implicated in a 1982 attack on Iranian dissidents when he was still a student in Germany; he was protected on that occasion by the Iranian Embassy. After the restaurant assassinations ten years later, the Iranian Ambassador produced a 30page letter attempting to discredit witnesses for the prosecution and defending . Darabi.

The court was told that Darabi activated four Lebanese members of the Iranianbacked Hezbollah movement for the assassination. The Kurdish leaders, meeting on the fringes of a Socialist International session in Berlin five years ago, were regarded as prime targets for the Tehran



Iranian dissidents chant "Stop the killer regime in Iran" outside the Berlin court which jailed a Tehran-controlled hit squad yesterday

The most politically important victim of the Mykonos restaurant attack was Sadegh Charafkandi, leader of the Democratic Kurdish Party of Iran. He and three others died in a hail of bullets.

☐ Mission approval: The Berlin court yesterday identified Iran's Supreme Security Council as the planning centre for assassinations abroad. The 15-member council, which is directed by President Rafsan-

jani, gives final approval to missions initiated by the intelligence section of the President's office.

Permanent members of the council include the Intelligence Minister, the Foreign and Interior Ministers, the Chief of the General Staff, the Commander of the Revolutionary Guards, and two representatives of the spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. The Berlin judge referred to

this religious involvement in murder plots yesterday, thus ensuring there will be angry protests after prayer meetings

Leading article, page 21

## Israeli threat to reoccupy towns

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ON YET another day of Israeli-Palestinian street battles, Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, yesterday provoked Arab fury by claiming that the Jewish state would have "no difficulty" in retaking the eight West Bank towns handed over to Palestinian control since the 1993

It was the first time the been made publicly and came only 36 hours after Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, gave a warning that "one more major terrorist attack" on an Israeli target could finish the peace process.

Since Palestinian unrest erupted three weeks ago, Israel has made no secret of moving battle tanks, combat helicopters and snipers to positions round the main Palestinian towns. But ministers



Mordechai: "Not difficult to recapture Hebron'

have not spoken of wholesale reoccupation, a move some Israeli experts fear could plunge the Middle East into a new regional war.

Speaking during a tour of the occupied Golan Heights, Mr Mordechai said: "There would be no difficulty in recapturing Hebron or any to do that. We want the Palestinians to honour the agreements so we can make progress in the process and reach a solution without dangers or

Leading Palestinians accused him of cranking-up tensions. Since the current crisis was sparked by the start in building a Jewish settle-ment at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem, 12 people — including three Jew-ish victims of a suicide bomber - have been killed and more than 300 wounded, most of them Palestinians.

Mohammed Dahlan, chief of Yassir Arafat's preventative security forces in Gaza called the remarks "unnecessary", adding that, although the Israel Defence Force could reenter any Palestinian city, there is no guarantee that it could get out easily".

□ Body found: Israeli troops

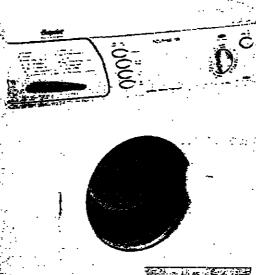
in the West Bank yesterday found the body of Sharon Edri, 19 - a soldier missing since September — in Sourif, the home village of the Muslim suicide bomber who blew up a Tel Aviv cafe last month. (Reuter)

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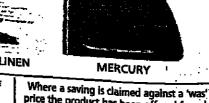
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## ·First Lady 'played key role in helping jailed former aide'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON thought to have played a central role in a concerted White House effort to help Webster Hubbell, the President's convicted former friend and top aide, who is alleged to have received hush money for his silence over Whitewater.

America's First Lady, who has consistently denied any prior knowledge of Mr Hubbell's criminal involvement in the failed Arkansas land deal, also ordered her office to track all media inquiries about the Associate Attorney-General six months before he was forced to leave the Administration.

Mr Hubbell resigned from his post in March 1994, pleading guilty nine months later to the theft of almost \$400,000 (£250,000) from the Rose Law Firm, the Arkansas practice whose partners had included Mrs Clinton. His resignation was swiftly followed by the receipt of nearly \$500,000 from Clinton friends, a windfall thought to have been a Preward for Mr Hubbell's silence and subsequent conviction to 21 months in prison.

Many believe that Mr Hubbell, Mr Clinton's closest friend from Arkansas and regular golfing partner, holds

Clintons. Since his release in February, however, Mr Hubbell has refused to co-operate with the investigation led by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, and has denied any involvement by the President or his wife.

But the hand of Mrs Clinton, never far from the myriad scandals that have plagued her husband's Administration, was once more in evidence yesterday when it emerged, despite repeated denials to the contrary from her office, that the First Lady had been aware of Mr Hubbell's problems long before his

The White House has already admitted that some key advisers, including Erskine Bowles, the Chief of Staff, and Mack McLarty, an early predecessor in the same job. sought to find work for Mr Hubbell after he left the Justice Department. But any orchestrated effort has always been denied and officials have maintained that neither President Clinton nor the First Lady knew of the investigation into their friend until they

read of it in the papers. In fact, Mrs Clinton had approved a memo from Mr McLarty warning her of the tended to help with Mr Hubbell's search for a job. Numerous White House officials are now said to have been intimately aware of the effort to secure his future. Furthermore, as early as October 1993 Mrs Clinton's office ordered the first inquiry into Whitewater to advise her of all media questions about the investigation and Mr Hubbell's suspected criminal involvement.

Three months after Mr resigned, James Riady, the Indonesian billionaire at the centre of the Clinton fundraising controversy, visited the White House every day for a week. On the following Monday, Hongkong China Ltd, a Riady company, sent Mr Hubbell \$100,000.

Describing the allegations as part of a never-ending conspiracy, Mrs Clinton yesterday denied any suggestion that the White House had tried to silence Mr Hubbell by finding him work. She said friends had rallied to help him during his time of need.

"It reminds me of some people's obsession with UFOs and the Hale-Bopp comet,' she said of the Whitewater investigation in a radio interview, adding: "There isn't

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Workmen fix a street lamp in Sarajevo yesterday in front of a poster of the Pope

### CIA takes blame for error over **Gulf chemicals**

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA made an unprecedented apology to Gulf War veterans yesterday after America's top spies admitted that an extraordinary intelli-gence blunder led to the possible exposure of thousands of American troops to lethal chemicals soon after the conflict ended.

In a report that contradicted three years of previous ClA accounts, the agency admitted that it had received numerous warnings since 1984 about sooner — if you're looking for chemicals stored at Khamian apology. I'll give that siyah, a remote animunition depot in southern Iraq and the and other communications.

only site at which the Pentagon has admit-6 If you are ted its servicelooking for men may have been exposed to an apology, poison gases. Despite evidence I will give that thousands of weapons filled you that with mustard gas had been apology 9 stored in the complex, intelli-

gence analysts ground battle failed to inform an American began in the Gulf War, an military team. Consequently, the team later believed that it was safe to blow up the depot in the weeks after the end of the Gulf War.

The Pentagon last year announced that more than 20,000 American troops might have been exposed to nerve gas and other chemicals as a result of the explosions, provoking thousands of claims from veterans who alleged they had since suffered serious health problems.

In a formal apology, Robert Walpole, the official overseeing the intelligence investiga-tion of Gulf War illness, said

that the CIA experts had failed to research their records fully and had been fixated in a belief that the Iraqis stored chemical weapons only in Sshaped buildings unlike those

at Khamisiyah.
This is the chapter that lays out some not so pretty news. he said, "Intelligence support before, during and after the war should have been better." He added: "We should have given this information out apology." A series of cables

> beginning in uing until days before American ground troops arrived years later, gave detailed warnings about the war. In 1991, a day before the

American ambassador passed the CIA information from the Iranian Air Force, which gave the precise co-ordinates for Khamisiyah and succinctly stated its use by Iraqis as a chemical weapons depot.

The CIA gave the data to the military central command responsible for the Gulf region. However, the agency later cabled the US Army to say that analysts had been unable to identify a chemical facility at the suspected site. Mi Walpole said the CIA had problems with multiple databases" that contained several names for one site.

#### Britain's envoy says it is time for leaner UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DESCRIBING the United Nations as the "institutional equivalent of a Model T Ford". Britain's UN Ambassado called yesterday for a drastic rethinking of the world organisation for the next century. Sir John Weston proposed that over the next generation

the UN should shift its priorities towards humanitarian intervention, human rights. terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking and, above all, the environment. He described the present UN as top-heavy and doubted whether it was equipped to tackle

Sir John's remarks, made in an address to the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, were clearly intended to influence the policy review being pre-pared by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. That report is meant to chart a course for the UN in the 21st century.

this agenda.

Sir John argued that the UN should be subjected to the same trends of downsizing and decentralisation that have swept through national governments in recent years. Old UN mandates should be slashed, committee hours halved and outdated bodies dissolved, he said.

The 185-member General Assembly, which votes on scores of subjects, should give strategic direction on no more than 12 items a year, he said. Periodic special sessions of the assembly could be held to deal with "planet survival issues". but they would be attended by specialists, not diplomats.

The organisation should be-come more flexible and less bureaucratic, adjusting the balance between "inter-governmental activity at the centre and operational serroots in the field".



framed by plotters

#### Way cleared for King rifle tests

By Tom Rhodes

A COURT in Tennessee has approved new tests on the rifle and bullet believed to have been used in the assassination of Martin Luther King. the black civil rights leader, in Memphis in 1968. James Earl Ray, 69, convict-

ed of the murder, is hoping that new tests on the hunting rifle which carried his fingerprints will support a longstanding allegation that he was framed in a wider conspiracy. Suffering from chronic liver

disease, Ray is seeking a new trial to reverse his original guilty plea. He has enlisted the support of both Coretta Scott King and Dexter King, the assassinated leader's widow and son, who have said they want Ray to stand trial again to resolve the mystery.

Joe Brown, a Memphis
judge, ruled in February that

new technology existed which could prove the veracity of Ray's claims. His lawyers must ask the judge for permission to conduct the tests.

If they show that Ray's rifle was not the murder weapon, he can file for a new trial. Ray contends that the rifle, which he had been instructed to bring by a gun-runner known as Raoul, was placed near the murder scene by conspirators trying to frame him.

### **Dole joins law firm** in Washington

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, the Republican had a starring role in adver-candidate who lost to Bill tisements for Air France and Clinton in last year's race for the White House, is joining a respected Washington law firm as special counsel.

Mr Dole, 74 in July, chose to step down from his Kansas Senate seat to run for President after a 28-year Senate career. He said after his defeat that he had been in Washington too long to return to Kansas and would look for suitable work in the capital.

Visa. With the self-deprecating wit he often employs with friends, but which was largely absent on the campaign trail. he ends the Visa pitch with the punchline: "I just can't win."

The firm he will join, Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, Mc-Pherson and Hand, has 170 lawyers and consultants, and advises 90 of the Fortune 500 companies. Former Senators Lloyd Bentsen and George Since the election, he has Mitchell are also its advisers.

iety





Killer sues

Zimbabwe

ex-leader

Harare: The Rev Canaan Banana, 61. Zimbabwe's first

President, is being sued for more than £70,000 by a police-

man to compensate him for an

alleged three-year ordeal of

homosexual abuse (Jan Raath

Byron Hove, counsel for Jefta Dube, 35, a former

inspector, said yesterday he

had filed papers in the High Court for pain and suffering endured while Dube was Mr

Banana's aide-de-camp be-

tween 1983 and 1986. Dube, 35.

is in jail for shooting dead a

constable over a "gay" jibe.

Korea shooting

Panmunjom: Troops from

North and South Korea ex-

changed warning shots across

the tense demilitarised zone

here. The shooting came

shortly before a visit by Wil-

liam Cohen, the US Defence

Secretary. He said the incident

showed "it is still a very tense,

dangerous, unstable situation

as far as the North Koreans

are concerned". (AFP)

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housing residence

## Rebels give Mobutu three days to resign

## Ultimatum rules out exile for President

By Sam Kiley, africa correspondent

THE rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, ordered a pause in his advance across Zaire yesterday and gave President Mobutu Sese Seko three days to step down before he orders his fighters to march on the

capital, Kinshasa.
Rebel radio said that there was no need for Mr Mobutu. 66, to go into exile and suggested that he could live out his remaining days in his home town of Gbadolite.

In Goma, Mr Kabila, 56, said in the palace which had once belonged to Mr Mobutu that "if in three days we will not get good news from Kinshasa on the availability of Mr Mobutu's willingness to depart to the north, then we will be forced to continue the military advance on all the regions in which the authority

Mr Mobutu, who has prostate cancer, is anxious that he should not die abroad, family members have said. In insisting that there is no need for the President to leave the country, the rebels appeared to have acknowledged Mr Mobutu's deeply superstitious nature. But Mr Kabila said the lull in fighting would not go on for

long.
"I hope something major will happen within three days contact us to negotiate his departure ... He can call me on the telephone," the rebel

Mr Kabila, wearing a white

shirt with a black pinstripe and black trousers, said he welcomed Wednesday's White House statement urging Mr Mobutu to make way for a transitional government.

"I think they are right by saying it now. Everybody knows that this is the time for Mr Mobutu to get out of power," he said.

The ultimatum came amid newly restored calm in Kinshasa after a day that saw troops firing teargas on opposition supporters. Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire continued to fight with pockets of government soldiers on the outskirts of the second city, Lubumbashi, but insisted it was in control.

Locals said that gangs of youths who had raided abandoned government barracks as the soldiers ran from the rebels were cruising around the city in stolen vehicles filled with looted goods. The rebels have been quick

to impose military order on other cities they have taken in their seven-month campaign, in which they have stormed across the country almost un-Yesterday was probably the

last day of what Zaireans call "affirmative shopping" and most residents of Lubumbashi were confident the rebels would soon restore order.

Curious onlookers watched as others looted Mr Mobutu's presidential palace in Lubum-



Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, at a news conference in Goma. He urged President Mobutu to contact him while fighting was suspended

bashi and made off with kitsch household fittings as well as small arms abandoned by

fleeing troops. Young, well-dressed and strictly disciplined fighters now in charge of the city said that they had met with unexpectedly stiff resistance from sion in a battle around Mount Simba to the south of Lubumbashi and that there had been heavy casualties on both sides. A Belgian man was wound-

ed in a shell blast near the golf course and his friends were trying to organise his evacuation by air to Kinshasa. The Lubumbashi-based

Governor of Shaba province, Kyungu ku Mwanza, who was recently appointed by Mr Mobutu, left the Governor's office on Wednesday afternoon with a white flag and is

to the rebels. One colonel in the presidential division who refused to

assumed to have surrendered

surrender was killed, witness-

Government forces who abandoned Kisangani in the east and Mbuji-Mayi in the south, have now retreated pressure from the rebels to Kikwit, about 200 miles from Kinshasa.
"We expect a lull for the next

tensions here.

"Everyone's main worry is

couple of days while people digest all the recent news," a European ambassador in the capital said yesterday. "Knowledge that the rebels are closing in is bound to raise

how the army will behave," the envoy added.

#### Nigerian decree Lagos: General Sani Abacha, "

Nigeria's military ruler, has decreed that he has absolute power over recently elected local governments, including the right to dismiss council leaders. (Reuter)

#### Arrest order

Quito: Ecuador's Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the former President, Abdalá Bucaram, suspected of misuse of presidential funds. He was deposed in February and is in exile in Panama. (Reuter)

#### Songwriter dies •

Hendersonville, Tennessee: Mae Boren Axton, 82, cowriter of Heartbreak Hotel, the hit that catapulted Elvis Presley to stardom in 1956. was found dead on Wednesday at her home. (Reuter)

#### Holy orders

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein, who is 60 on April 28, has ordered a new mosque to be built and another to be restored each year to mark his birthday. Baghdad radio reported. (AFP)

### Delhi coalition faces deadline

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian Government has been given a deadline of llam today to get rid of its Prime Minister or face certain defeat in parliament. Talks to save the ten-month-old administration broke down last night.

The Congress party, which withdrew support from the Government last week, has ordered its MPs to vote against the ruling United Front coalition. H.D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister, has refused to stand down, the principal demand for saving

the Government. The brinkmanship threatens to throw the country into a general election that no party wants -especially not the Congress, which knows it would suffer greater humiliation than in last summer's poll, when it was virtually eliminated in the north of the country.

It is seeking to lead a new coalition led by Sitaram Kesri, the party president, who accuses Mr Gowda of ordering police to launch corruption investigations into senior Congress politicians as part of a personal vendetta

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ment started negotiations on Wednesday, giving little time to resolve the crisis before the confidence vote. Congress supported the Government in parliament without being part of it, and has been awaiting an opportunity to manoeuvre itself into a dominant position and instal its own Prime

Mr Kesri's move, which has upset senior party figures, was ill-timed and evidently not well thought out. If the Government is toppled, it will be difficult for any party to gather enough support to lead a new

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## White Ensign is lowered in Far East

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

THE FLAG of the Royal Navy will come down for the last time on the China Station today in a ceremony to mark the decommissioning of Britain's last military base in the

The base of the navy's Hong Kong squadron on Stonecutters Island is to be taken out of service 81 days before the colony reverts to China. A Royal Marines Band will play Sunset as the White Ensign is lowered. "It will be a very sad event," said

the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater. The Royal Navy has been

in Hong Kong since 1841. when British troops planted the Union Jack at Possession Mount during the first Opium War with China. The base is being decom-

nissioned exactly a century after HMS Tamar, a wooden 16-gun sloop, arrived here on April 11, 1897, to be used as a naval accommodation vessel. Tamar was scuttled in Hong Kong harbour on December 12, 1941, a day after the Royal Navy withdrew from Stonecutters to Hong Kong island

as Japanese forces pounded the dockyard.

The navy will also be honouring Jenny Side Party, 78, whose women clean, paint and polish in return for "arisings" — old wire, rope, canvas, paint and galley swill. Jenny, whose real name is Ng Muk-kam, was nine when

she began helping her mother, also a side party girl. The first boat I ever worked on was HIMS Berwick when it came in 1928," said Jenny, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1980.

Letters, page 21



Jenny: has worked on ships since 1928

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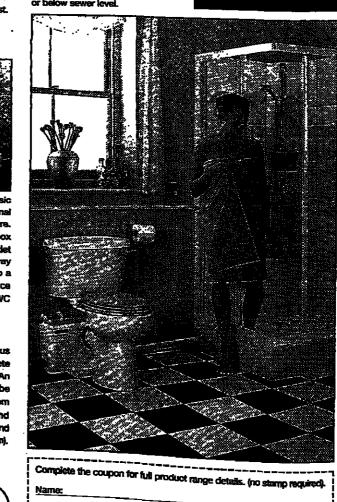
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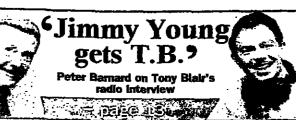
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'I'd love to see Jemima Goldsmith canvassing in our housing estates? David Mellor in Putney

Ben Macintyre - page 15

Peter Riddell – page 12

Labour has only itself to blame for the wobbles in its campaign?



## Desperately seeking Sir George

Sir George Young went to Yorkshire to extol public transport, but The Times's **Damian** Whitworth went one better and actually tried it out. Michael Powell took the photographs

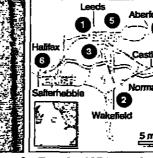
MY MISSION was simple. Follow the Transport Secretary. Sir George Young, as he travelled Yorkshire looking at the successful results of government policy. There was only one catch. While the minister travelled in an airconditioned car, I would test the public transport system and keep up as best I could. 8.45pm Wednesday: Phonecall from the newsdesk. I know that something is up when the caller is barely able to contain his mirth as he starts the briefing.

8.45am Thursday: I step out from my hotel in glorious sunshine. Perhaps this won't be so bad after all.

8.50: Nobody in the information office at Leeds City station has ever heard of the first stop, Cobra Rail Freight. After many frantic phone calls it emerges that it is in Wakefield. 9.34: I take the train from Leeds to Wakefield. I am slightly concerned when I look up from my newspaper and I see that the train has stopped in Castleford. I came to Castleford on Monday and even as a Londoner know that it is not between Leeds and inadequacies of public trans-Wakefield on the map. We stop there for a while. Then we offer him the chance to accom-







Hot pursuit: Sir George Young's visit to Wakefield station was the start of an odyssey for Damian Whitworth, a Londoner, as he consulted maps and timetables to follow the minister's progress across unfamiliar terrain

edge slowly backwards out of

the station. 10.00am: Arrive in Wakefield. 10.05: After a short walk catch up with Sir George who is hopping on and off trains at the depot. "Part of my transport policy is to move more business off the roads and on to the railways," he says as he moves off towards his chauffeur-driven car. I explain my mission for the day to him. Is that to try and show up the

pany me on this little odyssey. I take public transport whenever possible," he says emphatically before mumbling something about the need for a car when travelling from a Hampshire constituency to the North. 10.53am: I trundle back on the train to Leeds. I find myself

opposite two elderly chaps who communicate in a language which seems to consist only of whistles. 11.34: The train gets into Leeds two minutes before my bus to

Aberford. I rush into City

Square but needn't have worried as the bus is late. Even if it had been on time. I am due to reach Aberford 45 minutes' after Sir George arrived and ten minutes before he leaves. 12.10: After winding through the sprawl of east Leeds it is a relief to arrive in the pretty village of Aberford. The lane where Sir George is making a house visit is easy to find. 12.20: It is a very long lane. And uphill. Eventually, per-

grand house where local Tory party members and parish councillors are sipping coffee. Sir George clearly believed he had seen the last of me and looks rather surprised. The party workers smile politely but clearly think I am raving mad, perhaps dangerous. The owner of the house, a floridfaced chap fetches me a glass of orange squash. I feel about ten years old. But Sir George is very friendly and he and the spiring heavily, I reach the local MP. Spencer Batiste, top of an endless drive and points to the horizon where the emerge on to the lawn of a new Al/MI link road is being

built and enthuse about how it is not going to spoil the countryside because it has

been carefully sited.

Sir George's sniffy assistant, Lucy, is very reluctant to tell me the rest of the day's itinerary. I have only the vaguest idea where they are going next.

I.20pm: Alone at bus stop Decide to cross road to The Swan for refreshement. But I know that the iron lore of buses is that they always come when you pop in for a quick

1.21: Pop over for a quick one. 1.22: Bus comes. Sight it in time and clamber aboard. Time-wise, things are beginning to unravel. I make a tactical decision to scrap the next stop and head for the final engagement in Halifax.

2.05: Back in Leeds. 2.18: Leap on the train to Halifax via Bradford. 3pm: Arrive in Halifax knowing only that Sir George will be somewhere in a suburb called Salter Hebble for 30 minutes.

3.10: Newsagent tells me I am going in completely the wrong direction. There is only one solution.

3.15: £12 poorer, 1 emerge from Cycle Gear with a hired mountain bike. 1 set off at about two miles per hour wobbling in front of jugger-

3.30: Gotcha! Catch up with Sir George who is examining a road junction at the bottom

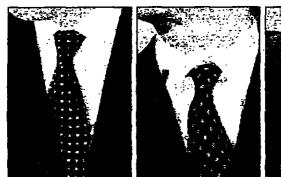
of a hair-raising incline.
"Well done," says Sir George. "But that isn't public transport you know." He of-fers me a lift back in his Rover. Looking up the terrifying road I have just come down, I want to accept but proudly I decline and weave back to the station.



Last rendezvous, with our man now on two wheels

:es.

ap-ar.











Blue is the colour: Mr Blair's choice of campaign neckwear has allowed only one appearance for old Labour red

## Blair's ties get election blues

Psychologists say Labour is getting it in the neck, writes Jeremy Laurance

TONY Blair has abandoned the trademark red ties that led Labour through the last two elections. The Labour leader's switch to blue — on 14 of his past 15 public appearances — is a marked change from the Neil Kinnock years when red was de rigueur for senior party figures.

Psychologists, image consultants and public relations advisers agreed yesterday that Tony Blair's choice of campaign ties says more about him and Labour's policies than a stack of manifestos.

The dominance of blue in the Blair wardrobe has drawn gibes that the Labour leader has stolen the Tory's clothes as well as their ideas. On each of the major set-piece occasions in the campaign to date, a predominantly blue

tie has hung from the Blair neck.

On March 17, the day the election was called, it was blue and white squares with small red diamonds - a favourite tie that has had two further outings since. On March 31, the Labour campaign launch, it was blue with red diamonds.

Three days later Mr Blair selected blue with yellow spots for the launch of Labour's manifesto. On April 6, taking his family to church in Islington he went tie-less — but wore a blue shirt. The following day, addressing a business audience in the city, it was plain blue, the same tie he displayed to David Dimbleby on Panorama that night. The only exception to the blue-withanything rule was the red tie with white

ts he wore while campaigning in Staffordshire on April 4. Angela Wright, a colour psychologist who runs a consultancy in London, said Mr Blair was indicating his preference

for reason over passion. "Blue is the colour of efficiency and sophistication but it is rather unemotional. He is telling



In the red: Neil Kinnock

us that he is sensible and business-like and not fiery and emotional." Dr Halla Beloff, a social psychologist

in Edinburgh, welcomed the Labour leader's break with party convention.

"The uniform of the parties is rather cheap and vulgar. I think women thought it was a bit silly the way Mrs Thatcher always wore blue."

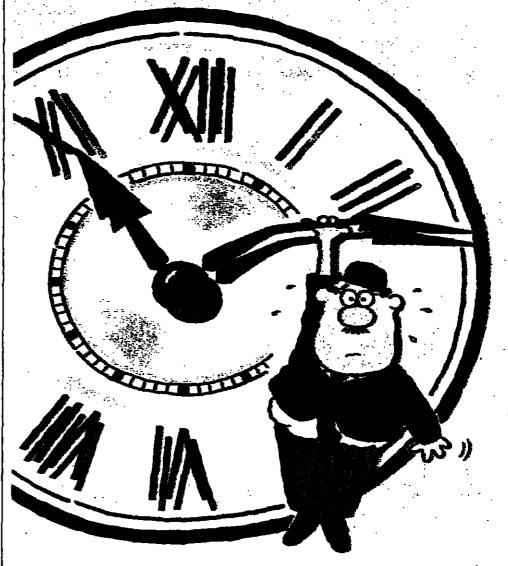
Francis Hallawell, a director of the Quentin Bell Organisation, said Mr Blair was demonstrating sartorially his party's shift from Left to Right. "He has pinched the Tories' policies and now he is

pinching their colours as well," Mary Spillane, of the image consultants Colour Me Beautiful, said blue was more appropriate than red for a prospective prime minister. "Blue conveys authority. It looks more business-like and statesman-like. Red conveys dynamism but a wholly red tie can come across as arrogant. If you wear red it has to be broken up with a pattern."

A pattern was necessary to show personality and indicate that the wearer knew what year it was, something that eludes British politicians, according to Ms Spillane. "They wear these brandnew ties that no one else is wearing. don't know where they get them."

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## GOLOUR CHARTS PARTY'S SHIFT TO THE RIGHT

17 March: Blue and white squares, small red dia-monds. John Major calls the

election. 20 March: Blue, with white diamonds. Visit to Hatton School, south Primary London following London press conference on technology in schools.

26 March: Blue and white squares, small red diamonds (as 17th March). London press conference. 27 March: Blue, white spots.

Memorial service for Matthew Harding, deputy chair-man of Chelsea football club. 28-30 March: No en-

gagements 31 March: Blue, red diamonds. Launch of Labour Party campaign with slogan "Britain deserves better" 1 April: Red and blue squares. Launch of Labour's Battle Bus, tour of East Midlands, rally in Derby. April: Blue, gold blobs.

Preparing speech for next

day's launch of the mani-3 April: Blue, yellow spots. Launch of Labour manifesto in London, visits to Scotland and West Midlands.

April: Red. white spots. Campaigning in Staffordshire 5 April: Red, blue and white rings. Formally adopted as Labour candidate for Sedgefield constituency.

6 April: No tie, at church in

7 April: Plain blue. Addressing business audience in the

April: Blue, yellow and white spots. Question and answer session in Basildon. 9 April: Blue, white shapes. Campaigning in Exeter, attends cabaret evening in Plymouth.

10 April: Blue and white squares, small red diamonds (as 17 and 26 March), In Redditch and Warwick after press conference in London.

## Howard hits out at Labour over strike threat by firemen

threaten the future of three fire

stations in the Southend-on-

Sea area and undermine safe-

ty, pay and conditions.

But the county council blames the reduction on gov-

ernment cuts, amid counter-

TROOPS are on standby to provide emergency fire cover of Essex, that common sense if a strike by firemen is agreed will prevail and they will today. The action was seized decide not to strike. Of course, on by the Home Secretary as this is a matter between the Labour-affiliated FBU and the evidence of the union militan-Labour and Liberal controlled county council. It's for the cy to come under a prospective Labour government. A fleet of elderly Green council to determine spending Goddess fire engines arrived priorities. Once more, we are yesterday at the garrison town

seeing an example of industri-al unrest, a hallmark of real of Colchester in Essex where 300 men from 24 Airmobile Brigade prepared to take over Bernard Jenkin, Tory candidate for Essex North, said: "This is what a Labour gov-ernment would be like, with from the county's fire service if the strike went ahead. The 25 engines will be deployed at 14 towns in Essex if a ballot by bust-ups between Labour minthe Fire Brigades Union isters and their union paymas-(FBU), to be declared today, ters. The grade threat to supports a strike. The industrial action is being taken affiliated to Labout organising a strike எ வடிப்பட because Essex County Council, controlled by Labour and Firefighters say the cuts

Michael Howard said: "Forget the rhetoric of new Labour, witness the actions of real Labour in local government. I

the Liberal Democrats, has

cut the fire service budget by

hope, for the sake of the people claims by Tory councillors of budget mismanagement.

The council said there would be no redundancies or station closures as a result of the cut, but, under the obligatory three-year review by the Chief Fire Officer into the level of fire cover, reductions remained a possibility. A council spokesman said: "The £1.5 million cut has been imposed because the county council had to make a £22 million cut in overall services. But they have worked very hard to limit cuts to the fire service."

An army spokesman said the troops were experienced firefighters but would undergo training at Wattisham, the Suffolk air base.

A spokesman for the fire brigade said: "The timing is not of our making. No time is a good time for firefighters to withdraw services and put the public at risk." But the public, he added, could be put perma-nently at risk if fire services were contracted out.



Tony Blair and Gordon Brown at Labour's morning press conference yesterday

## Leninist-style Blair-Pro Blair-Brown axis puts party in policy spin

abour has only itself to blame for the wobbles in its campaign and the Tory pick-up in yesterday's MORI poll in The Times. The root cause is not events over the past ten days but the style of policymaking over the past three years. Tony Blair. Gordon Brown and their small group of allies have constituted a Leninist vanguard, operating by coup rather than consensus and fait accompli

rather than debate.

The typical pattern has been for Mr Brown (and it is almost always him) to make a speech which is cleared per-functorily with Shadow Cabinet colleagues, at times just the night before by telephone. His staff give advance briefings about the Shadow Chancellor's intentions, giving an impression which sometimes goes beyond what Mr Brown's later speech says. But the initiative is firmly established and becomes policy. This has happened with Mr Brown's main proposals on public spending and taxes, most recently when he announced that Labour would not raise the top, as well as the

basic, rate of income tax. Occasionally, the process has come unstuck as when Mr Brown got into trouble over his plan, fudged in the elec-tion manifesto, to reallocate the money paid in child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds. Similarly, the floating by Mr Brown's staff of the rather sensible idea of privatising the Tote was immediately repudiated by Robin Cook,

producing a stalemate. However, Mr Blair and Mr Brown have only been able to change Labour and its policies as much as they have by circumventing an often conservative group of spokesmen and MPs, and then seeking blanket endorsement from party members in a ballot. Allowing time for lengthy discussion would have risked

building up opposition. But there are risks in policy-making by bounce and briefing. Not everyone is signed up to a policy, or even aware of a shift. The very centralised nature of decision-making as over privatisation and the future of the air-traffic control system. There have been tensions between some of Mr Blair and Mr Brown's advisers, though not between the two men themselves, as in the contrasting versions of how much could be raised from the

The appearance has been given of policymaking on the hoof, which has damaged



PETER RIDDELI

the chance to counter-attack. This raises questions about how Labour would make policy in government where initiatives cannot be launched by nudge and wink and have to be agreed collectively.

The confusion also reflects the dilemma posed for Labour strategy of seeking election on a platform of fiscal prudence. The approach means the argument is defined in Tory terms, and therefore makes Labour vulnerable to the picking apart of its figures and the discovery of alleged "black holes". It also makes it harder for Labour to campaign convincingly on improving health and education when its specific pledges for change are so marginal and it is accepting the present Government's spending totals for the next two years.

abour leaders should consider the message of ithe MORI poll. There is no reason for them to panic. Labour's lead is still unprecedentedly large for this stage of the campaign. But the Tories have started to climb out of their narrow range of the past 18 months and the campaign is becoming more fluid with more people saying they may change their mind. The Labour campaign has so far been cautious and vague. But the party needs to make a stronger positive case about how it would really make a differ-

ence in office. The party's main distinctive economic proposal — as optional change — is the use of the windfall levy on the utilities for measures to cut youth unemployment by 250,000. There are holes here, too, as the Tories pointed out yesterday. Mr Blair has shown a pretty sure touch in the campaign so far. But he needs to start taking some risks. The election is not just about "time for a change". We need to be told more about what the

change involves.







## Labour turns new page in campaign

For the first time the party is advertising in weekly women's magazines to woo Britain's

'marginalised' voters, Andrew Pierce writes

NO INCREASE IN

INCOME TAX RATES.

TONY BLAIR is courting the female vote aided by soap-opera stars with the first big political advertising campaign in women's magazines.

More than £120,000 is being spent by the Labour Party on double-page advertorials in best-selling maga-zines such as Woman, Woman's Own, and Take a Break. They will appear in the week before polling day

on May 1. The political campaigning. The Party spread in Wo-

man, the grand old lady of the first political advertisement in the publication

Labour's strategic message in its 60-year history. Woman and Woman's Own, the more traditional weekly products, are aimed at the "thirty-something" middle-class mother. They sell 828,000 and 808,000 copies respectively.
Labour strategists have also targeted relative newcomers in the field

such as Take a Break. The magazine. part of the Bauer group, is the market leader and has a weekly circulation of 1.3 million. The party is also advertising in that's life! the most popular read for young mothers; it has a circulation of 483,000.

Richard Wilson, star of the comedy One Foot in the Grave; Michelle Collins and Ross Kemp from East-Enders; and, Coronation Street performers have lent their names to the campaigns under the headline:

"What the stars are saying about Labour". Glenda Jackson, the Oscarwinning star turned politician, has completed a question and answer session for the magazines. Dr Miriam Stoppard writes an agony aunt column for readers with political

Mick Hucknall, the singer from the Simply Red pop group, is also quoted as say-LABOUR'S FIVE YEAR PLEDGE.

ing: "My father told me again and again as a child that under the Tories the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. I still think it's true. If make a change

you have to vote new Labour." Michelle Collins, Cindy of EastEnders, says: "I think Labour will do much more than the Tories to improve women's healthcare, For instance, new Labour will speed up diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer." The advertorials include a copy of a

poster of Tony Blair alongside the words: Labour's five-year pledge of no increase in income tax rates. There is a signed letter from Mr Blair addressed to "the children" of

Mr Blair, referring to his own three young children, talks about his commitment to schools and reducing class sizes. "As a dad, I want the best for my children, just like your mums and dads want for you.

Phone numbers are included for



Actor Richard Wilson and singer Mick Hucknall are among the stars backing Labour

details on how to join the party and for clarification on party policy.

The paid-for advertising campaigr is part of the increasing battle to win the women's vote as Worcester Woman has displaced Essex Man as the symbolic target of this general election. Some research has revealed that John Major is more popular with women than Tony Blair. The Labour leader flattened his bouffant hairstyle and smiled less on the advice of some

IPC magazines made the initial approach to BMP, Labour's advertising agency, and MC Saatchi, which handles the Conservative Party account. Labour endorsed the package but the Conservatives decided not to

The strategic switch in advertising comes after a survey by the Equal Opportunities Commission showed that 88 per cent of women feel marginalised by the main parties. Simon Hills, the agency sales

director for Woman and Woman's Own, said: "There has been a gender gap. In the past, political parties have used television and newspapers in election campaigns but tended to forget women. The economy is not necessarily the most important issue for women. It's about children and classroom sizes. Women have a trusting relationship with their magazines. Women believe what they read in them, which is where the power of the message comes across."

#### « Tony Blair n'est pas notre tasse de thé »

### Blair too Right for French Left

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

TONY BLAIR was denounced by a leading French socialist yesterday after winning praise from the Right.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a left-wing Socialist senator, said in an interview: Tony Blair is not our cup of tea. He says he believes in workplace flexibility. I fear that the sight of this kind of 'socialism' will not improve our image on the Con-

His attack on Mr Blair follows attempts by the Gaullist-led government to compare Labour's manifesto with what it says are the archaic policies of the French opposition. Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist Party leader, says he will increase wages, cut the working week to 35 hours and create 700,000 public and private-sector jobs for young people if he wins next year's legislative elections.

Pointing to the gulf between M Jospin's "unrealistic promises" and the prudence of "le bon socialiste anglais", the Right

says French socialists are

out of step with the modern The editor of the Gaullistsupporting newspaper Le Figaro, Franz-Olivier Giesbert, said in a recent editorial: "We must urgently get the French Socialists to read

Mr Blair's programme so that they store away their magic cure-alls and their magic wands for creating 700,000 jobs." Such comparisons have served to infuriate France's

Socialist Party at a time when its popularity is failing in the opinion polls. In L'Evénement du Jeudi. M Mélenchon gave full vent to the anger that the Labour

Party has provoked.
"Tony Blair represents a variant of socialism acceptable to the French Right," said the leader of the French Socialist Party's left-wing tendency. "If Tony Blair took up a quarter of Lionel Jospin's programme he would look like a dangerous leftist in the eyes of the City. With an English-style socialism in France ... the National Front would have a clear road ahead of it."

## Jimmy Young catches TB in studio attack

weekly programme information which the BBC sends to journalists relieve the tedium by having a little fun with headlines, so a note about yesterday's Radio 2 interview between Jimmy Young and Tony Blair was accompanied by the startling announcement JY gets TB.

Young has been around for so long that he not only remembers old Labour, he has paid income tax to it. He has interviewed every Prime Harold Wilson in 1964. Young's official age is 72, but his real age may be a state secret. Who's Who gives the birthdate of Leslie Ronald Young as "21 Sept" but a year is not forthcoming.

There are those who regard Young, a former crooner and disc-jockey, as a soft touch, but few of them have been interviewed by him. He is well briefed and has an allergy to flannel, which he interrupts with Paxmanite regularity. His best moment with Mr



#### PETER BARNARD

Blair was when he produced the letter written on March 21 by the organisation representing air traffic controllers, saying that the Shadow Transport team had said that Labour "will not privatise the Air Traffic Control System". This was some four weeks after Margaret Beckett said Labour would have to review whether to proceed with its sale.

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tion now when in 1987 he had called the Tory privatisations "the closest thing postwar to Blair seemed to get off the political corruption?" Mr Blair said that it was the way the Tories had sold utilities and the low prices asked that he condemned.

But the Labour leader needs to take care. Young is only the latest interviewer to suggest that Mr Blair is hurriedly climbing into Tory clothes to garner votes and this line of questioning has a drip-drip effect as surely as sleaze wears away the Tory undersoil

the transport team had given

this assurance. Young asked

him who had. Mr Blair said

he did not know who had. So Young said: "If you don't know who it is, how do you it

is not a member of the

This was a classic Young-

ism, in that it bluntly mirrored the reaction of his listeners, of whom there are 1.5 million

every day. Many of these people, middle-of-the-road lis-

teners to a middle-of-the-road

Young knows that audi-

ence: he speaks for them, to

the extent that anyone can.

They take a simple view and

are suspicious of politicians

who offer complex, albeit

tenable, answers as to why

what they thought last week,

or last year or a decade ago is

Blair in favour of privatisa-

Why, Young asked, was Mr

not what they think now.

transport team?"

at this election.

The one thing we did not discover yesterday, an omission many of Young's loyal listeners will not easily forgive, is whether Mr Blair wears his shirt inside or outside underpants.

It was on Young's pro-gramme in March 1994 that John Major revealed that his shirts were tucked inside. something which told the nation more about their Prime Minister than a thousand manifestos.

Mr Blair's interview with Young only lasted just over 25 minutes, so there may not have been time for a full exposition of his policies in this area over the years. The matter, quite rightly, re-mained privatised.

#### Casualty of slogan war

LABOUR'S "Britain Deserves Better" campaign has struck a chord with voters and shown a tangible difference between them and the Tories, a poll disclosed today.

The slogan has captured the imagination and support of 84 per cent of 1,000 people interviewed nationally. By contrast, just 8 per cent identified with the Conservative alternative, "Britain is Booming". A majority said they thought the Tories were solely interested in their opponents, rather than the electorate's concerns.

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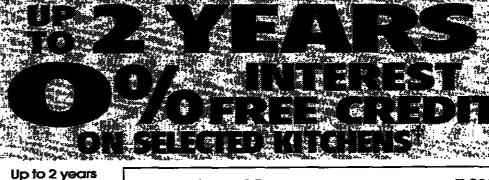
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## Labour shows zero tolerance for Major's stance on crime

RICHARD FORD AND PAUL WILKINSON

LABOUR accused John Major of being soft on crime last night after he appeared to rule out the controversial "zero tolerance" policy for one-off

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that the Tories were "hopelessly split" after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, took a notably tougher approach than the Prime Minister and said that he favoured zero tolerance.

Tony Blair made plain his support for zero tolerance on the day that Charles Pollard, Chief Constable of Thames Valley, criticised the policy, which was pioneered in New York. Mr Pollard said that "significant dangers" lurked

The Tory manifesto does not use the phrase "zero tolerance" but clearly backs the concept. It says that the police are rightly vigorously tackling problems such as graffiti, vandalism and drunkenness, and adds: "Where such behaviour goes unchecked more serious crimes will follow."

When Mr Major was asked about his attitude at his morn-

ing press conference he said create a different climate with- nals. Mr Mallon, who has that some police chiefs favoured zero tolerance of serious criminals and had targeted their policing to deal with a particular sort of crime damaging to their area.

But he went on: "I do not think that talking of zero tolerance of people who are one-off offenders, many of whom may be inadequate in some way, is the right way to deal with them. I think where you are talking of the professional criminal classes I think it is right to be tough but whether you use the term zero

tolerance is a matter of taste." Mr Blair said he had an "absolutely clear view". He said: "If you refuse to tolerate small crimes then you can

HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE concept of "zero toler-

ance" is based on a theory that

if minor disorder such as

begging, vandalism, litter and

drunkenness continue un-

checked they produce a com-

munity where serious crime

in local communities. If you go to local communities where there are serious crime problems the first thing you see is vandalism, graffiti and old people being put upon.. If you do not tolerate those things you then set a standard for your attitude towards crime throughout the whole community. I am passionate about this - because otherwise you are admitting there is a level of

disregard." Later both Mr Howard and Mr Straw backed the concept of zero tolerance and Mr Straw visited Middlesbrough to meet Ray Mallon, a detective inspector, implementing a

In New York, the strategy

has been hailed as the reason

for a 37 per cent drop in street

crime over three years. Oth-

ers have argued that the

decline is also due to shifts in

the demographic structure of

the city with a decline in the

number of young men.

crime you are prepared to

promised to resign if he does not cut crime by a fifth over 18 months, said: "We are targeting a minority, they are called criminals. We will continue to target them. This is what the public and government wants. The public is fed up with wishy-washy policing methods.

"Academics have knocked our approach but I say they are wrong. I am tired of having to justify why Cleve-land has been successful in reducing crime. When a football team wins matches, they do not have to justify why."

Mr Howard told BBC Radio 4's World at One: "I believe in zero tolerance of crime. I believe in taking the fight

Ruthless approach 'leads to riots' including graffiti artists, beg-gars and drunks from the

Charles Pollard, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, writes in a book to be published next week that the emotion underlying the strategy is based on aggression: on ruthlessness in dealing with low level criminality and disorderliness. He said yesterday it could lead to victimisation and trigger rioting as occurred in Brixton in 1981.

against crime to the criminals. That is what the police are ways in different areas, according to local circumstances. Of course it is important to bring your local community with you to build a real partnership - I have always placed great emphasis on that."

Mr Straw rejected the suggestion that zero tolerance could cause more problems than it solved. "I don't believe that's the case, especially if it is zero tolerance with a British

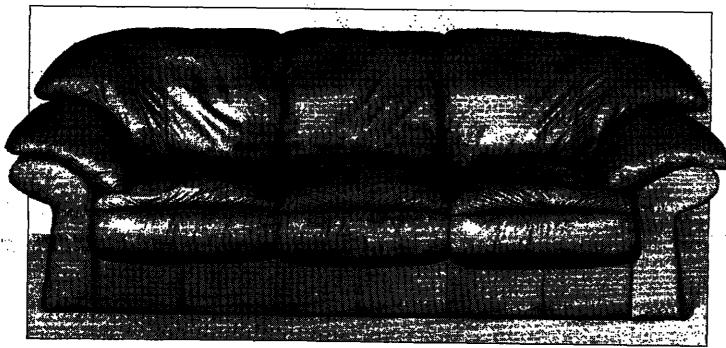
Mr Straw said later Mr Major and Mr Howard could not agree on how disorder should be tackled. "I am astonished that John Major does not realise the misery which disorder, vandalism, public drunkenness and harassment wreak on people's lives. Mr Major's attitude explains why crime has doubled over the last 18 years and why incident sof disorder have icnreased dramatically."

The Tories accused Labour of mischief making, saying there was no difference between Mr Howard and Mr Major. They were both talking about being tough on

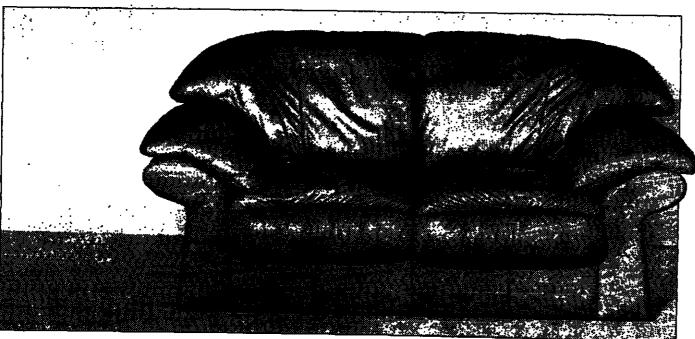


Looking sheepish: Liberal Democrats leader Paddy Ashdown bleats at a ewe on a farm near Edinburgh to persuade her the new-born lambs are safe with him

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Sealand Road

## Rich find friendly habitat in Labour

IT SEEMS an unlikely piece of Labour propaganda. In its election broadcast last night, Anita Roddick, queen bee of the environmentally friendly toilet-products chain, de clared, of Tony Blair: "I like the way he looks exhausted."

So maybe Blair is cracking up after all, just like Michael Heseltine keeps telling us. But she went on to say: "I like the way he is working. And finally a politician that is not arrogant. Labour is defi-

nitely a party that business can do husiness with." Which was the point of the exercise. Labour persuaded : three successful business personalities and a former Bank of England adviser to declare that the business world can tennis on, and finally-got happily work with a Labour round to the matter in hand: government. Ms Roddick was the boss of Granada, and Terence Conran, head of Habitat and fashionable restaurateur, and they took it in turns to endorse the new Labour boast that many entrepreneurs now look forward to

working with Labour. And what a change it made from the night before, when the Tories paraded actors posing as working people disillusioned after living under Labour, Labour, mean-

TV WATCH **NICHOLAS** WAPSHOTT

super-rich, just like an American Express commercial. Mr Robinson, speaking from his gilt drawing room, confessed that he had been "a Conservaitive voter ever since I was allowed to vote", but came out with this endorsement: "I think, frankly, there is only one party that can represent Britain best, getting business

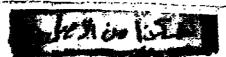
right and that's new Labour. Mr Conran, who has appeared in an Amex ad, sat behind a desk you could play "John Major is not strong together and I do think that Tony Blair will be strong enough. I am impressed by his dynamism.

But whether or not you believe the message, it is at least a confident one. By contrast, the Tory effort was paranoid, negative and apocalyptic. As many voters feel uneasy at seeing one party slag off another, just as they recoil from knocking copy in detergent ads, the difference

(Ory chairma)



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#### Andrew Pierce investigates the invisible men (and women) of the campaign

## Party managers have undesirables kept off camera

Short and Douglas Hogg have emerged as the politicians most conspicuous by their absence from the limelight of the election campaign. Virginia Bottomley and

'imbab<sub>w</sub>

ex-leade

Frank Dobson, both expected to be demoted from their respective front benches whoever wins on May I, are also among the "invisibles" from the showcase Labour and Tory morning press conferences. To discover who is and who is not basking in their leader's favour, one may consider the politicians excluded from the setpiece occasions.

The most surprising casualty is the Home Secretary. No word has been heard at the daily press conferences so far from Mr Howard, who is a future contender for the party leadership if the Tories lose the election.

Mr Howard, regarded at Central Office as one of the cleverest members of the Cabi-net, is seen by the party's communications strategists as a turn-off on the television. Even John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, another candidate for an early return to the backbenches, has appeared once. Mr Dobson, his opposite number, and Michael Meacher, who shadows environmental protection, have been banished to the outer reaches of Labour's elec-

tion campaign.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has, in com-mon with Mr Howard, done the rounds of the television and radio studios. But he has not appeared at the press conferences which often dictate the election agenda for the rest of the day.

Conservative Central Office fears the worst if the matter of "mad cow" disease is raised. It could mean a return to centrestage of Mr Hogg, the accident-prone Agriculture Minister, who so far has been been kept out of public view. Mr Hogg, reputed to be the favourite Conservative MP of

11000



Michael Howard



Clare Short



Douglas Hogg

out of the firing line even when an important report was published this week on hygiene standards in abattoirs.

For Labour the starring role at the news conferences has been taken by Gordon Brown. the Shadow Chancellor, with seven appearances, who anthe Shadow Foreign Secre-tary, and a rival to Mr Brown should Mr Blair lose the election, has led from the front only once. David Blunkett, by contrast, already assured of the education portfolio in a Blair cabinet, has been in the bot seat four times.

Most of the running for the Tories has been made by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, with five appearances, against three by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, chairs the proceedings but rarely speaks other than to introduce the next questioner.

There have been three appearances apiece for Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, once out in the cold, who shadows rade and industry. But Ms Short, one of Labour's best-known frontbenchers, who has the overseas development portfolio, has been consigned to the margins. The gaffe-prone Ms Short's previous declaration that she was prepared to pay higher taxes, and her support for a debate on the decriminalisation of cannabis have ensured that she is kept active on the campaign trail, far from party headquarters.

Labour, unlike the Tories, always insist on a woman being on the top platform but appearances can deceive. Sometimes the role is ornamental. By contrast, only Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has featured among Tory women.

Mrs Shephard has had prominence three times unlike Mrs Bottomley, her Cabinet colleague, who is one of the Conservatives' most ineffectual television performers. Mrs Bottomley is nowhere to be seen - unlike Baroness Thatcher, who may not be part of the press conference team, but has re-emerged as the Tories' first lady at the halfway point.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health



his copybook earlier this year by straying into the devolution debate. Likewise Chris Smith, Mr Dorrell's shadow, and once a favourite of Tony Blair, has been excluded.

John Prescott, who enjoyed a starring role at the first press campaign manager, was kept than his leader. Robin Cook, Major's favourite son, is a has not been allowed back been kept away from the daily the television cameras.

beamed in by satellite link, was given one of the easiest rides of the election campaign. Mr Blair asked the questions. Andrew Smith, the Shadow

Transport Secretary, at the centre of the rumpus over the privatisation - or not - of the

Nor has Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, been been called upon to land the

Like Roger Freeman, the Civil Service Minister, he has been kept hard at work on the

## Bell summons friends and foes in Tatton walkabout

Charles Bremner in Knutsford finds the BBC's harassed crusader learning politics the hard way as he runs the gauntlet of divided local Tories



THE two faces of Tory woman were on fine display amid the daffodil-strewn gardens of Cheshire yesterday as Martin Bell worked to shed the mantle of newsman and don the crusader's cape to sort out" Neil Hamilton.

First there was Mrs Anne Estridge, wife of a Conservative defector and retired party official who has switched support from the Tatton MP to the anti-sleaze newsman. Tall, blonde and soignée in icans, Mrs Estridge dealt briskly with the "reptiles", as Mr Bell calls his swelling media entourage, when he visited her husband at home in the rich town of Alderley Edge. "No pictures of me," she commanded but then proceeded to bring tea and coffee to the news people.

A quick drive down the leafy lanes to Nether Alderley offered a glimpse of Tory lady rampant. A knock on the door of the secluded cream mansion by the church produced Christine Hamilton, all guns blazing. An intimidating vision in red, the MP's wife shooed off The Times, in the way one might dispatch an annoying bluebottle. Will you get out. Get off private property. Will you people get off my land."

Her husband, whom she has protected ferociously all week, is not expected to take to the hustings until next week after the local Liberal Democrats follow the Labour Party's decision on Wednes-day night to back Mr Bell. Despite much talk, no

heavyweight figure has yet broken the omerta that holds force among the tight-knit Tories of Tatton and offered to stand as an independent Conservative, Despite hints, silent. The public support of men such as Robin Estridge. 70, a former local party secretary and former Lloyd's brokeт, is lowering anti-Bell suspicions among Tories. "I am going to support Mr Bell because I am not going to vote for Mr Hamilton," he said. But the local party machine shuns the defectors. "If Mr Estridge was ever an official, it was a hundred years ago." said Barbara Armitage, par-

ish party chief. Holed up in his house, Mr Hamilton might have been gratified to witness the affection he engendered among at least two of his constitutents as Mr Bell walked the streets. The presence of the man in the light suit was too much for the driver of a gleaming Ferrari. He prowled London Street, slowing by the candidate to rev his engine and yell

"Martin Pillock". Another man, in his late thirties, strode up to Mr Bell, 58, and shouted, inches from his face. "This is a bloody disgrace. It's not politics. What do you know about the A34 bypass? ... Neil Hamilton has done a damn good job tor his constituents." But Mr Bell received the good wishes of a gaggle of elderly women and Frank Field, another local Conservative official who defied the majority, who

stopped to shake his hand. While clearly popular about the streets, especially among women, Mr Bell must bone up quickly on such burning local matters as the planned new runway at nearby Manchester airport and producing positions on the single currency and education. Mr Hamilton, eager to seize on his unfamiliarity with the trade, wants him to agree to a debate. The Bell can Mayor of Knutsford, stayed was negotiating yesterday.

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## Mellor gets in training on the Wembley turf for a tough match

Chelsea's notorious fan ducks as Ben Macintyre tries to pin him down

DAVID MELLOR knelt on the hallowed turf of Wembley yesterday and flicked plastic marbles depicting Chelsea players around a felt pitch to promote a children's football game and his own election campaign.

His opponent was Tony Banks, representing Labour and, for the purposes of vesterday's encounter. West Ham. It was a needle match. "Don't try to cheat," said Mr Banks, after Mr Mellor briefly lost his balance, fouled at least six players from either side and flattened his goal. The final three-all result,

including an own goal by Mr Banks, was patently rigged. It's a Labour-Tory pact," conceded Mr Banks, whose constituency was Newham NW. "Why not? Our manifestos are the same. Got to encourage him, poor sod. He's got a harder election campaign than me."
Mr Mellor, the former

National Heritage Secretary, does indeed face a tough match for re-election in Putney - a Conservative-Labour fight rendered unpredictable by the challenge from Referendum Party leader Sir James Goldsmith, who staged his first party rally in

the constituency last night.
Before the Wembley kickoff of the "Flik a Ball" challenge. Mr Mellor was ducking and weaving around the old peoples' in what would not be the last soccer allusion of the day.



David Mellor, left, with Tony Banks at Wemblev

defensive game and proving exceedingly hard to pin down. "I don't like to be followed by journalists when I'm visiting, It looks like it's just being done for the cameras," the candidate, often accused of egregious self-publicity, explained, having finally been cornered in his constituency offices.

A vote for Goldsmith is a wasted vote. He's just a bird of passage. I don't think he's even been here." Mr Mellor insisted. But he conceded that Referendum Party votes could chip away at his 7,500

majority and help Labour.
Only a fool would underestimate the strength of a Labour challenge but, as they say in football, we can "do The David Mellor elected MP for Putney in 1992 is not the same one standing today. The minister who resigned in September of that year after his affair with an out-of-work actress, his connections with a property dealer who lent him a Mayfair flat and his acceptance of a Marbella holiday from the daughter of a PLO official, has since reinvented himself as a radio soccer pundit, newspaper columnist and well-rewarded consultant to defence com-

Not all Putney voters are thrilled by his new strip.
"He's doing very well for himself," remarked John Allison, a newspaper vendor who has been in prime

position to observe the more

a bit like Clint, don't you?"

lapped up by a man frustrated

at being corralled in the

Central Office bunker doing a

panies. He has also become a

decide whether he's a politician or a businessman.

The candidate is dismissive of such suggestions. I don't hear a lot of that. I'm open about what I do. You get the odd negative remark. but it's mostly the journalists

who go in for that."

His relationship to the media is a complex one. The press unmade Mr Mellor and then made him again. Mr Mellor plainly dislikes journalists, needs them, and now, as a soccer columnist for The Mirror and radio host, he is one.

As Mr Mellor trotted into Wembley to the recorded roar of the crowd it was, as so often with this politician, impossible to tell whether we were watching conscious self-parody, canny political calculation or a man trapped into indignity by the demands of his own persona.

The Conservative candidate did not seem to know himself. As Mr Banks cracked off a series of themed lines - "It's an election of two halves. The second half is going to be harder for the Labour Party", Mr Mellor, like many a sports commentator stuck for a line, blandly opined about the weather.

Then Britain's most notorious Chelsea fan fell silent, nervously blinking like a sick parrot who feels he ought to be over the moon, but some-

## lurid vicissitudes of Mr Tory chairman has his day made



Mawhinney, left, and

By DANIEL McGrory

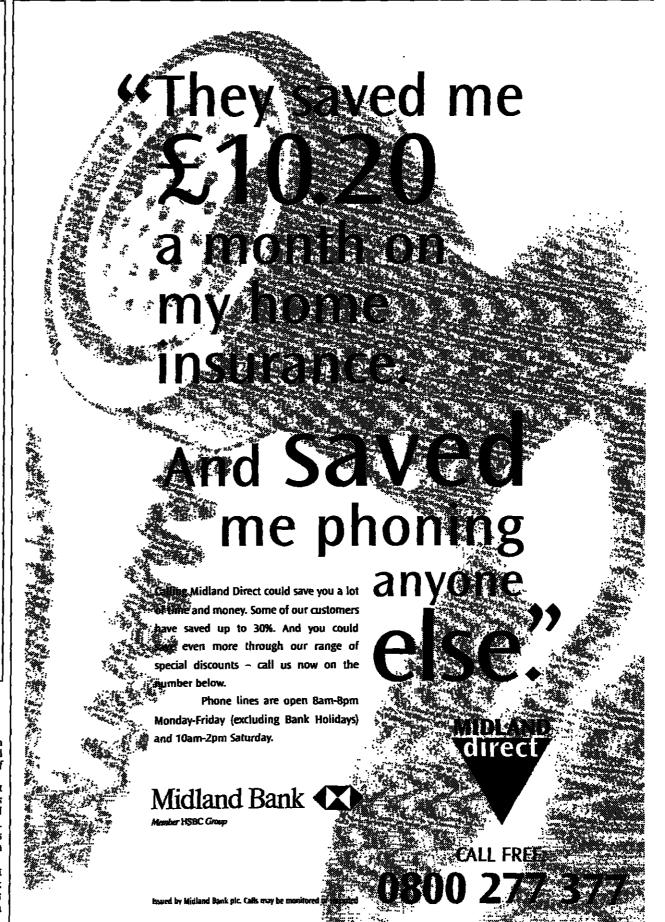
HE HAS been called many things in his time, most of them deeply unflattering. But Brian Mawhinney has surely never been mistaken for Clint Fastwood before.

It happened in a south London bus shelter and the Tory's chief bouncer blushed and stammered as his female admirer licked her lips and pinned him with a bear hug of an embrace. "Go on, Clint" desk job for so much of this she shouted, "Make my day

and give me a kiss." Finally campaign. So little has been prised apart from the Tory seen of him Labour wanted chairman. Mary Jenkin. 69. him added to the list of slumped back breathless into endangered species. "I have been about a lot her seat saying: "He is their gunslinger; the only tough one

more than they think. Not as they have got. I think he looks much as I would like but I have to do my day job. Canvassing on the streets is Her companions sniggered and compared him to characthe hit I genuinely love, even ters from Hammer Films, but the insults and the critics". the compliment had been

He did not have long to wait for the insults as his tour took him through a Norwood street market and eventually on to a debate in a Battersea pub.

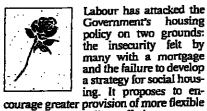




The Tory manifesto promises continuity in housing policy. It estimates that another 500,000 people will want to purchase their own home during the next decade and pledges to

support this aspiration. This means, according to the Tories, a renewed drive to encourage local authority and housing association tenants to buy their own home or move to a home that they can buy. The Conservatives also promise legislation to allow those buying flats to choose a new form of common ownership. The main initiative concerns the long-standing problem of council homes that remain unoccupied. Government policy has been to push the number of empty homes below 3 per cent of the total stock. Councils would be obliged to sell any property that remained empty without good reason for more than a year.

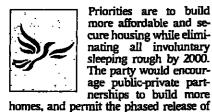
#### LABOUR



Labour has attacked the Government's housing policy on two grounds: the insecurity felt by many with a mortgage and the failure to develop a strategy for social housing. It proposes to en-

home loans as well as offering stronger protection against disadvantageous mortgage packages. The party will consult on the problem of gazumping. The shortage of social housing will be addressed by permitting local authorities to use capital receipts from the sale of council houses to be reinvested in building new homes or renovating old properties. Labour also gives cautious encouragement to schemes that would increase the involvement of private finance to improve the public housing stock. Councils will again face a statutory obligation to find permanent housing for homeless families.

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Priorities are to build more affordable and secure housing while eliminating all involuntary sleeping rough by 2000. The party would encourage public-private partnerships to build more

capital receipts from council house sales for new construction. A new mortgage benefit would help first-time buyers and replace MIRAS. Over time this new benefit would be merged with housing benefit to produce one system of housing cost relief. The party would require every council to set up self-funding rent deposit schemes to help homeless people to take private tenancies. More short-term hostel places would be funded. The rights of all tenants would be strengthened. An "empty homes strategy" would require private landlords to return empty properties to the open market.

## BANKOIL THE TIMES GUIDE TO

15: Property

## Home truths shared by all

HOUSING and property were at the centre of political debate when the Conservatives came to power in 1979. For rather different reasons, they became politically significant again in the early 1990s. At this election, however, they will play a much more subdued role. Although all three parties have new policy suggestions, none has chosen to make them high-

This shift has three main causes. First, the Conservative drive to increase home ownership has largely peaked because almost all those who want — and can afford — to become property owners have achieved that status. Second, the combination of a spectacular downturn in property prices and economic recession between 1990 and 1993 badly damaged the reputation of the Government. Third, Labour has abandoned its previous ambivalence to the private sector and now competes with the Conservatives for the votes of owner-occupiers.

It is beyond doubt that the Conservatives have made the running in housing policy. The first two Thatcher terms saw a very rapid increase in home ownership, with the propor-tion of all houses held this way rising from 56 to 66 per cent. Since 1979, nearly four million more households have entered this category. A very large proportion of these people -1.5 million — were former council house tenants. Of these, I.4 million made that purchase via the right-to-buy programme. They often benefited from large discounts in recognition of the rent that they had paid in previous years. Many were able to make a vast profit during the boom market of the 1980s.

However, by the third Thatcher term, the rapid increase was running out of steam. Additional methods were invented to encourage it. The 1989 Cash Incentive Scheme enabled local authorities to provide grants to council tenants who wanted to buy. The Tenants Incentive Scheme was devised to provide similar. assistance to those living in



Four million new homes may be needed in the next 20 years but who will build them?

The Government also introduced a voluntary purchase grant to help those same tenants to buy their existing homes. A Housing Act last year let tenants of new social

housing buy at a discount. Home ownership now appears to be close to its natural ceiling. That was confirmed by the relative failure of the Rentto-Mortgage Scheme, the Conservatives' big idea at the last election for persuading those who might not have believed they could afford to purchase. The Government concedes that take-up rates have been lower than hoped. Attention has now shifted to

reviving the private rented sector. The Conservatives enjoyed some success here through substantial deregulation starting in 1988. More than 300,000 households returned to this sector relatively quickly. The 1993 Budget launched a rent-a-room initiative, allowing the first £3,250 received from a lodger to pass without tax. That has since been increased to £4,250. The

Tories have also tried to persuade council tenants to opt for private rather than local authority control, especially in social housing (mostly elderly

people in sheltered accom-

modation and low-income in-

dividuals and families). Housing associations are now the premier provider of new social housing, supplemented by the Large Scale Voluntary Transfers pro-gramme, which encourages councils to transfer ownership to private landlords.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have accused the Government of indifference towards social housing. The Government has been reasonably content with an annual increase of new social lettings of about 60,000 properties. Others, including the all-party Environment Select Committee, have sought a much

A similar dispute rages about homelessness. Labour notes that more than 40,000 families live in temporary accommodation. The Liberal Democrats have been especially concerned about the num-

bers sleeping rough. Demand for home ownership is driven by demographic and social trends. Britain's high divorce rate, and the desire of young people to set up on their own as soon as possible, will fuel extra demand, mostly for smaller houses. That could mean 4.4 million new homes will be needed over the next 20 years. Matching that demand will be difficult, given environmental considerations. Recent upward movement in property

prices is likely to be sustained. These trends might have proved helpful to the Conservatives. However, their claim to be the party of property has been battered in the 1990s. The collapse in prices and severe economic recession hit many of those who had been encouraged to become home owners. At one stage, more than 1,000 homes a week were being repossessed. Millions were trapped by negative equity.

Economic recovery since 1993, with a gradual appreciation in property prices, has

eased the problem for most. Repossessions have slowed to a relative trickle and negative equity has abated. The Government did not help its case by its progressive assault on Mortgage Interest Tax Relief a middle-class perk that Margaret Thatcher had always protected. MIRAS is now in the process of gradual eradication. Fortunately for the Tories, the impact of this

has been camouflaged by the

sharp fall in interest rates Under Tony Blair, Labour has moved to exploit govern-ment discomfort. Neil Kinnock dropped the party's hostility to council house sales - largely a matter of practicality - but Labour still gave the impression of active indifference towards those who owned their property. Mr Blair has made enormous efforts to

show his sympathies. During the recession, Labour urged a more interventionist approach. At this election, Labour promises to work with mortgage providers to offer a wider range of more flexible arrangements. It also wants to extend consumer protection against the sale of suspect mortgage packages. It has even taken on the issue of gazumping, although an initial commitment to legislation has been tempered to a pledge to consult on a solution.

The question of homelessness remains important, although perhaps not as prominent as at the last election. A clutch of initiatives is generally recognised as having cut the number sleeping rough, but a high number are still without a permanent home. Labour and the Lib Dems pledge to tackle the problem more vigor-

ously than the Conservatives. In each case, a crucial component of their plans is the release of capital receipts held by local councils that were chiefly accumulated during the crash programme of council house sales which proved such a crucial part of the Thatcher era.

> On Monday: the environment

#### WHAT THEY SAID

The Conservative aim should be a property-owning democracy Winston Churchill, 1946

Only the Conservatives can be trusted to support those who own their home or aspire to own their home

widge re

Home ownership is what 80 per cent of people want . . . we want to give yet more people the opportunity to buy

We have to be clear who should be in

charge of housing. It is not the Government, not councils, not housing associations, but the people themselves

Labour has, for some time, been commit-ted to the phased release of capital receipts . . . it makes little sense to forbid local authorities from using this money

We are the only party truly committed to eliminating homelessness in this country. This scourge must be ended by the

Paddy Ashdown ... We haven't got a particularly strong or new line on housing...

Towards 1996 - leaked Liberal

Democrat memorandum

#### THE FACTS

☐ About 68 per cent of homes are owned by their occupiers, compared with 56 per cent in 1979. That means nearly four million more people have bought their homes in

Of those 4 million, about 1.5 million are former council tenants, the vast majority of whom acquired their home under the Conservative right-to-buy programme.

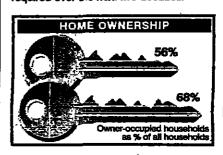
Only 18 per cent of homes are owned by local authorities, compared with 29 per cent in March 1979. About 5 per cent are managed by housing associations compared with 2 per cent 18 years ago.

A total of 300,000 more households have become part of the private rented sector since deregulation in 1988, adding about 25 per cent to the total stock. This has parity reversed a long-term decline in the sector, which had collapsed from about 90 per cent of all properties before the First

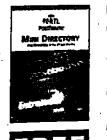
☐ The number of empty homes is estimated at more than 800,000.

☐ At the height of the recession, 1,000 homes were being repossessed each week. The slow revival in house prices has brought repossessions close to the average level in 1989.

☐ Up to 4.4 million extra homes may be required over the next two decades.





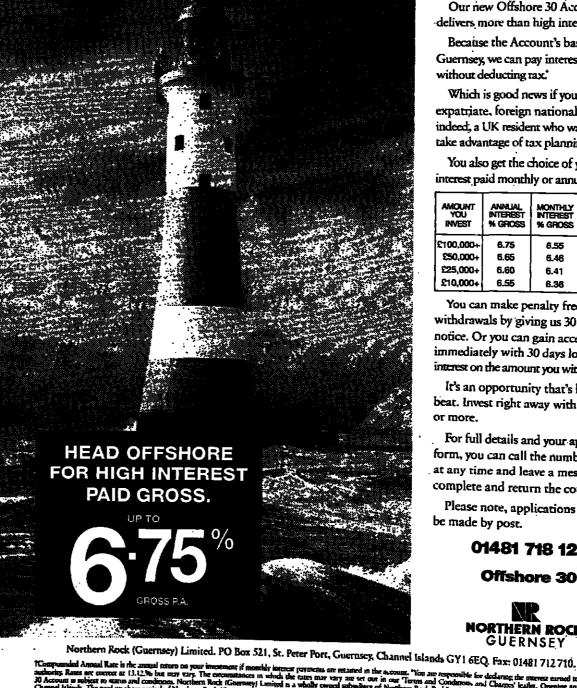


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## Oxbridge retains education grip on hopeful MPs

OXFORD and Cambridge, the traditional nurseries for politicians, have educated one in six candidates from the

three main parties, a survey by The Times discloses today. Academics believe that not even the large number of MPs retiring from politics, nor a esounding victory by new Labour, will loosen the universities' grip on a third of the seats in the Commons, Oxbridge alumni have tended to stand in safer constituencies.

The Times survey also shows that Conservative candidates are the better educated, in terms of university degrees, and that Liberal Democrats are more likely to have studied at former polytechnics.

Oxbridge's supply of 347 out of 1.884 main party candidates is almost identical to the last election. Yet while the number of Conservative Oxbridge hopefuls has fallen from 198 to 184, new Labour shows a rise from 76 to 85. That includes a 50 per cent rise in Cambridgeeducated Labour candidates.

Growing numbers of Lab-our candidates have university degrees. In the first Labour government of 1923, just 14 per cent of the party's MPs had been to university. At this election, 64 per cent of candidates went through higher education.

Philip Norton, Professor of Government at Hull University (which has educated 2) candidates), said the survey pointed towards the homogenisation of British politics.

As the jobs politicians do before being elected has become less varied, so the educational backgrounds of MPs have become more alike.

Professor Norton said that in 1945 one third of Labour MPs had been to university against 58 per cent of Conservatives. In 1992, the figures were 61 per cent and 73 per cent. "Conservative MPs are now slightly less likely to be Oxbridge and certainly less tikely to be public school," he said. "Notably there is an in-crease in university graduates for Labour. You are coming more towards the Identikit MP, which may be grammar school rather than public school, then university.'

One in six candidates from the three main parties went to Oxford or Cambridge University, a Times survey discloses. David Charter analyses the findings

The survey reflects Oxford's continuing dominance on British political life. It has educatseven of the ten post-war prime ministers as well as Tony Blair

Oxford provided 118 and Cambridge 83 of the MPs returned in the 1992 election. The next greatest number from a single university was 16. from Glasgow, followed by מוכיו dinburgh and London.

The pre-eminence of Oxbridge was put down to the two universities' highly selective intake and their traditional tutorial style of teaching. Oxford's top position was explained by the university's highly regarded politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) course, regarded as a foundation for a political career.

Marilyn Butler, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, said: "You are taught in a method here that is very vocal and there is a lot of arguing back. People from all backgrounds choose to come to a place which has got a certain kind of thrusting and forceful educational style — which is a dialogue." Cambridge's lower number of parliamentarians reflected its culture and



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UNIVERSITY	**	Og,	<b>46</b>	ૡૢૺૹ
Oxford	199	103		48
Cambridge	148	81	-37	<b>3</b> 0
Landon*	125	38	, 37.	50
Edinburgh	39	13	- 16	10
Durhæm	36.	16	- 11	9
LSE	.35	11	-17	7
Glasgow	34 =	11	ζĢ	14
Leeds	30	3	15	12
Bristol	29	8	- 10	77
Manchester	27.	11	5	71
St Andrews	25	11	-4	10
Birmingham	22	4	8	12
Hudal 5	21	3	13	5
Aberdeen	20	8	5	7
Aberystwyth	19	5	8-	6

courses, compared with Oxford, she said. The basic reason is that Cambridge does not study politics, it studies political theory. PPE at Oxford creates a critical mass of

people interested in politics." However, John Dunn, Professor of Political Theory at Cambridge, who defeated Kenneth Clarke as an undergraduate in a vote for vicepresident of the Cambridge Union, dismissed the theory of the PPE factor as nonsense. Historically, Oxford has been the university of government for a very long time and there just are closer ties between the political and administrative summit and Oxford than there

are with Cambridge," he said. The predominance of Oxbridge reflected the universities' mission to educate the nation's high-flyers, whatever their backgrounds."It would take a very dramatic historic episode like a revolution to actually break this pattern."

However, a future Labour Cabinet is not likely to be as Oxbridge-dominated as the most recent government. John Major, the only one of his 23member Cabinet not to have been to university, surrounded himself with 17 Oxbridge graduates, while Tony Blair, himself a graduate of St John's College, Oxford, chose just five as senior spokesmen.

The survey also finds that 580, or 31 per cent, of the candidates had no university education. That compares with 38.5 per cent of candidates at the last election.

In this year's campaign, 12 other "old" universities have produced 20 or more candidates. Seven former polytechnics have provided more than five candidates, led by Manchester Metropolitan (13). Wolverhampton (10). Liverpool John Moores (7) and Oxford Brookes (7).

Research by James Ashton and Sarah Atkinson



Simon Hughes alongside the "air ambulance" on the roof of the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, where he paid a whirlwind visit

## Hurricane Hughes breezes by the bedside

HALF propped-up on her pillows in the Cotton Ward of the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel. Florence Warden lay with her head slumped forward. Was she conscious? It was hard to tell.

Sitting by her bed, a thin, middleaged man with a tattoo on his arm held her hand. Silent, motionless and blank with worry, he stared into space. Neither knew -- neither would have cared - that Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman and candidate for Southwark North & Bermondsey, was on his way.

Unusually. Mr Hughes is not so enveloped in the self-importance a politician carries with him as to forget the world he is in. His entourage entered Cotton Ward like a tropical cyclone. But at the eye of the cyclone - Mr Hughes himself - was a calm and kindness which, even in the few minutes he spent with each patient, communicated itself.

Politicians and hospitals hardly mix. The scene teetered between tragedy and farce as Mr Hughes knelt before an old chap with respiratory problems, wheezing through a high-tech elephant mask. Mr Hughes, in smart Commons suit but afforded, now, the captive audience that the Commons has never granted im, made a short speech on the evils



of smoking. The old boy, in blue pyjamas, was in no position to argue. Mr Hughes wheeled round to Professor Robert Davies, who was accom-panying us. "Well, will there be a cure for asthma?" He stopped short of adding, "Yes or No?" The professor

looked taken aback. "Hello my dear!" called Mr Hughes gaily as he passed women in various states of insensibility or distress. "Now, what seems to be the problem?" he said, approaching the bed of Betty Weemes, lying provocasmart. Alice Peeke, lying in the next bed, waved,

Mr Hughes had put them at their ease. He then attempted a serious talk with them about the structure and funding of the NHS. By now his aide was getting impatient. "Come on Simon," he implored, with a weariness born of long practice, but Hurricane Simon could not leave without talking to all the patients he had left out. As we moved down the corridor, we realised we had lost him again. "He's popped into another ward to hug everybody," said an experienced Hughes-watcher.

We hurried past an Accident and Emergency room where a fellow. blood pouring from one eye and his shirt soaked, scarcely moved his head as the hurricane passed. There are moments during political campaigns when the backdrop looks like precisely that pictures — harrowing, exotic or bizarre -- projected as arresting scenery before which the candidates strike a pose, wait for the cameraflash, then pass on.

In the campaigns of the next century it may prove unnecessary for politicians to leave their party HQs. Fishing, farming, shop

"The winders need cleanin," said Mrs Weemes, who had donned earrings for the occasion and looked rather and again, Mr Hughes spoilt the perfect artificiality of the occasion by getting genuinely stuck into a human problem which had brushed his elbow. He became caught up in an inquiry as to what had started a fire in which a mother of two children had been burnt. Unlikely to solve this, Mr Hughes was finally pulled away. begging the children to look after

> Hurricane Simon hit the 'airambulance" helipad. The chopper was summoned as we watched. As men in orange boiler-suits leapt into the roaring, LibDern-yellow machine, which took to the skies in a rush of wind, you could see the envy in his eyes. Why, with this machine, he could descend from above in a big noise, dispensing mercy and Liberal Democracy.

ΩO

The visit over, politicians, aides, reporters and photographers left the hospital. Up in the Cotton Ward, the man with the tattoo was still holding Florence's hand: still silent, still motionless, still blank with worry. Her head was still bowed.

For Simon Hughes another hospital, another election, another whirlwind tour. For Florence Warden, the

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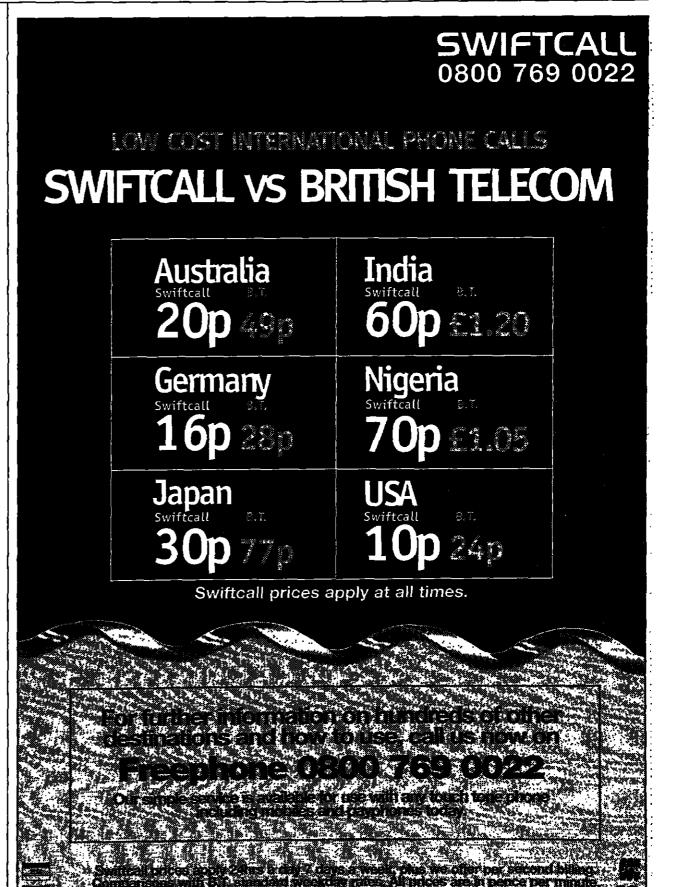
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## A question of experience

seph poem "When I am wear purple ... You may have seen her first appearance in a rather snazzy outfit on University Challenge some weeks ago - the oldest contestant ever at 73. She was one of the Open University team that wiped the floor with Swansea. 395 points to 65. Jeremy Paxman's 'Come on, come on!" is enough to make even the heartiest undergraduate quake, but Mrs Staples is not

the type to be daunted. Tall and elegant, outspoken and scratchily independent of spirit, she lives alone near Huntingdon in a Domesday Book village so picturesque it gets overrun every weekend by car-loads of happy families. "Would somebody please define family values?" Mrs Staples says crossly, driving me past thatched cottages. "Any politician that doesn't mention family values, I will vote for." She reckons society is hard on people like her who do their own thing. Everything is nant with me, she only went out after dusk for fear of what the neighbours would say. Quite different today, when

those dreadful leggings, looking like boiled eggs on legs." After schooldays there was no university for her because she was only a girl. Besides. her parents were grieving for one Christmas in a motor accident. By the time I was 20," she says, "all I'd known was old age, illness and death. I had my youth taken away. Then came the war." When her father died, her mother allowed her to go to college to qualify in pharmacy. She had a social life, but no social graces. She found all her boyfriends dull: "The sort of pharmacist who'd end up as a manager of Boots, wearing suits from the 50-bob tailors."

She worked in hospitals

"because people weren't so

rude to you as they were in shops, where they treat you like dirt" until she had to go home and nurse her mother in her final illness.

decided there must be more to life than slogging away till she got her pension. So she found a job in Zanzibar, in a copper mines hospital. "And I discovered how awful people were in these tinpot colonial places; women were judged by the positions their husbands held in the mine." She hought a car. drove all mund East Africa. out her car on a ship to Australia, and then went on to New Zealand - "my undoing". There she met an Australian engineer and married him. She was 39 and says if she hadn't been enfeebled with pneumonia at the time, she

> 'Most old bags my age end up living other people's lives'

came home. She found a job and "a nice little arty tarty cottage" in St Albans, and promptly went off on holiday to Corfu. At the Gatwick check-in she met husband number two, a newly widowed architect. "I thought, watch it, Ida Gertrude", but after the holiday he came rolling up to St Albans and that was it. I got rid of number one, and virtually married Fred Staples the

She was 46; he was 56. They travelled a lot. "His first wife wouldn't fly, so they would rent a cottage in the Lake District, where the heavens opened. But with me, you'd only to point to a spot on the

map and I'd go."
When Fred died in 1987 ---

ment; and currently Earth Sciences. "I could get a BSc now by paying £58 and getting a three-credit exemption; but what would i do with myself? i have to occupy my mind or I'd go cuckoo. So I'm just boxing on at half a credit a year." She will be 79 when she achieves

And on she travels, usually alone. "I went on a Saga holiday once, you know they call it "Sex and games for the aged?" to Oberammergau. But I've been on my own to Vietnam and Cambodia to see the fabulous temples of Angkor Wat. And to Pagan in Burma and Sukhothai in Thailand. I've just been to India for the first time: I was appalled to find the Hilton in Delhi surrounded by terrible shacks, and goats and cows wandering around nosing into plastic bags."

he swims three times a week and plays nine holes of golf. The television is for the evenings "just to have the sound of a human voice" but mostly she reads; she found David Lodge "a bit limited, always sex and the Catholic Church". On the table beside her armchair lie Chambers Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms, a Collins dictionary and Roget bringing, and my She does The Times crossword every day. When the OU student mag-

azine, Sesame, invited contestants to enter for University Challenge, she sent off for an audition. "I love quizzes. Hav-ing had a solitary youth, and being on my own a lot, I notice things. I've got this very good memory and I can remember all kinds of rubbish, like Mussorgsky's Christian names — Modest Petrovich. And I've had all this travel and terrific interest in other cultures.

When she went to Manchester to record the first round, she had just got back from Russia with a terrible cold and was feeling ghastly. "I had a cough sweet wedged in my cheek. But I really enjoyed it. It was mentally stimulating, meeting all the young people, their eyes bright with enthusiasm. And young men coming up saying Would you mind telling me how old

you are?" " She had a hard time in the first round. Her three fellow contestants - all absolute whizzes with their fingers on the button — turned away from her to confer and she could not hear their discussions; she felt shut out. She managed to get in just two answers - they were "Charterhouse" and "Fragonard". But wait till next Wednesday,

when Ida comes into her own. "As an older woman," she says, "I am marginalised on three counts (a) not having a family, (b) being a widow, and (c) because I'm partly deaf, which is very excluding. But never mind, I won't let things get me down. So many people are limited by their family circle. Most old bags my age talk of nothing but their ail-ments and their families and end up living other people's

## Parenting: what they don't tell you

The day I became a class rep, by Rachel Morris

all my fault for having flunked out of netball at 14 because I lacked team spirit. The twin gods of communal living and civic responsibility have been after me ever since, and have finally caught up. Recently, I became a class representative at my daughter's school.

For the truth about parenting that they never tell you is that it is a long. slow business that rebuilds you, body and soul, into somebody else. You start off if you are lucky — skinny. adolescent and with no time at all for committee meetings. You become - if your children are lucky - plumper, a (somewhat) better cook. able to get up earlier in the mornings and tolerant of standing for hours on end in a windswept playground,

pushing at swing; and also — if your local school is lucky — 'Now that patient enough to attend committee meetings for the school Christmas mother, the parties or the greatest summer fair. Because this is

I'm a

crime is to the other truth about parenting freeload' that they never tell you, that it involves you, despite yourself, in a commu-

nal life. You could search through 20 mother and baby books and not learn this crucial fact: that you cannot get by as a parent without asking favours of other parents, but you cannot ask favours unless you grant some in return. Small talk and general

sociability is what oils the wheels and makes the giving and the taking of favours possible. It is all absolutely necessary, but for someone like me with no talent for small talk, it is something of a nightmare. And, besides, it all seems so improbable. With one foot in the past, I stand in the playground and remember mutinous school days and creeping through hedges to miss assembly.

This communal life begins with the ante-natal class, then gathers momentum through the mother and baby group, the playgroup and the nursery until by the time you reach primary school, life is very communal indeed. These days, primary schools need parents - to be class reps, to run the summer fair, to read to the

infants, to help with extra-

SOMETIMES I think it is curricular activities, and above all to raise money. In every direction, there are committees that would like my help - or so they think. For the fact is that I have a lousy memory and a terrible attention span.

And while in theory I

absolutely approve of all this communal living, like many a passionate theorist I find it hard in practice. It is not that l do not like the other parents; I like some of them very much. It is just that I am not much good at joining in. I am the kind of person who, in Communist Russia, would have been shot for failing to participate.

And this, I think, is one of the true and unconfessed reasons why some mothers go back to full-time work to hand this problem over to the nanny or the au pair.

There are some women -- and I this - who find it easier to run a multi-national thing to say in the playground.

ago, you could go even further. A friend of my parents once told me that she sent her

children off to boardingschool so as not to have to talk to the other mothers or the teachers during termtime. Not everybody is good at communication.

BUT if these options seem curmudgeonly to you, then you have to face up to the participation question. For other times, other crimes, and while, when we were 18, the greatest crime was to be uncool, now that I am a mother the greatest crime is to freeload, not to pull one's weight, to allow others to attend the committee meetings in one's place.

And, of course, they have point which is why, in the spirit of natural justice, I have just taken myself off to a committee meeting, lousy memory, short attention span and all. And thus perhaps the rebuilding of my old personality into something else is almost complete.

And yet, not quite. For I still sat at the back of the class during the meeting - a sure sign of a reprobate and although I am a nonsmoker, a longing came over

. .

...

ADDLESS & THE

## da Staples puts me in mind of the Jenny Jo- Ida Staples became the oldest competitor ever on University

Challenge when she appeared on the quiz at the age of 73 an old woman I shall THE **VALERIE GROVE** INTERVIEW

> geared to groups or families.
> "I don't fit in. You can't see me at the WI or the Over-60s club, can you?"

She was a natural rebel, born to Victorian parents when her father was 50 and mother 44. " My father was a martinet and my mother was a prude. When she was pregpregnant women go about in

At 29 she was free, and brother, who was killed

> succumbed: "It was doomed from the start." She had decided, as a late child herself, that it is wrong for women over 40 to have children. When they parted she took herself to Fiji, from where she could see life in

perspective, and

would never have

next day."

life I was not going to be coerced into do-gooding. In life one can only go forward, as the Sanskrit motto says." Her husband had left a letter telling her to "have lots of holidays and sign up for the Open University." So at 63, she drove down the west coast of America, and on to Phoenix and the Grand Canyon, leaving a companion (half her age)

she had nagged at him to stop

smoking, which he did, but he

got lung cancer just the same

descended and suggested I

work in the Red Cross shop at

the hospital. But having dealt

with the public all my working

exhausted in San Diego. In the

Black Forest, that same year, a

woman with flaming red hair

"the biddies in the village

told her the Open University was wonderful. That was 1988, and since then she has never stopped studying. She be-gan with The 19th Čentury Novel, which gave me an insight into all my Smiles sayings, into my awn up-

She went on to achieve an arts degree, mainly in art history. At first she found it hard to proffer opinions in examination papers. "With my scientific backgound, I wasn't used to things not being factual, right or wrong. Some of my stuff would come back marked This is merely a reproduction of course material', so I started again with a wonderful course called The Rise of Scientific Europe, - old Copper-knickers, (Copernicus) and his heliocentric theory, and the trial of Galileo and the founding of the Royal Society and the importance of Sweden."

parents.

things".

Each time she finishes a course she starts on another: Man's Religious Quest: Geology and the Chemical Environ-



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lives. I do my own thing."

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## Crusader to the manner born

Etiquette is all to the formidable Gloria Petersen. Americans are flocking to her seminars, which are designed to stem the rising tide of boorishness, says Quentin Letts

USINESS is good right now for Gloria Petersen and it is all down, she says, to the "McManners" generation of modern America.

Ms Petersen, a ridily powdered, spangle-eyed Chicago dame in her middle years, teaches enquette to the American Midwest Her charm school seminars, which are attended by all ranks of people from bank chairmen to junior office orderlies, teach people the most basic facts of dainty

She puts them right on how to shake hands, how not to hold a knife like a pen, the intricacies of "kerbside etiquette", "elevator etiquette",

'There's an entire generation out there which does not know how to behave. That's what I can teach them'

and even how to behave at that modern business phenomenon, the "power tea".

"The Nineties are going to go down as the decade of diplomacy," reveals Ms P in a central Chicago restaurant, blotting her lips with a napkin in the approved fashion before drinking from her lunchtime beaker of water.

It is daunting to dine with a doyenne of the etiquette world. One frets, fidgets. Is there spinach in one's teeth? Has one put one's knife and fork at "20 past four" on finishing the main course? What about that partially picked chicken bone?

As if reading my thoughts, Ms Petersen summons the air through her neat nostrils andsays: "We do NOT involve the fingers." This is one of her sayings, along with "do not talk with your cutlery" and "don't make puppy sounds". which she conveyed to me just after I had taken a glug of drink. Also: "Don't kill and saw the meat - it is already dead." That one is an important reminder for a region famed for its calf-sized steaks.

"We have taken rudeness as far as it will go," she continues, little pinkie tucked neatly into

ith her two children having her husband, sadly, now off the ranch, she tours the more prosperous districts of the American heartlands in search of souls troubled by their lack of social

Hundreds of thousands have heard her speak. "An entire generation is now out there which does not know how to behave. They want to know. That's what I can teach

It pays pretty well. The rates vary on size of class, but she likes to clear \$2,000 (about (1,250) for a group session. She has an associate, Maryann Downes-Bagley, who teaches manners to children. They start as young as eight years old and parents pay as much as \$165 (E100) a day for Junior to be taught how not to eat like a monkey. The market is booming.

Ms Petersen declares — and

it would be impolite to doubt her - that instruction in the art of etiquette is more dearly needed now in the United States than ever before.

She traces the breakdown of polite society back to the inauguration of John Kennedy as president in 1961, when the youthful Democrat wore no hat. Gradually, dress codes faded and, with the permissive society and the anti-Vietnam War protests and the rise of "latchkey kids" and the retreat of traditional household meal times, the family dynamic disappeared.

Nowadays, you have the kids of parents who themselves were not brought up proper, so it should hardly be a surprise that they wear their baseball caps back to front and know not how to utter the magic word "please".

Ms Petersen started her charm school in 1985 after working for 16 years in the corporate world. She realised that when it came to corporate entertaining, younger executives were increasingly nervous about the prospect of having dinner with their boss. Would their table manners meet approval? How about the

Away from the table, people whose childhood evenings had been spent gawping at primetime television realised that their small talk was inadequate. How should they keep a conversation going? There were plenty of areas of doubt: the thank-you letter, how to remember names, make introductions. Here was Gloria Petersen's vocation.

For some, there is no higher calling than to convert pyg-mies to the Anglican faith.



Getting a head start in life: "We have taken rudeness as far as it will go," says Ms Petersen, who believes that instruction in the art of etiquette is dearly needed in the United States



Dainty tips: Gloria Petersen even teaches elevator etiquette

Others strive to save the whale, or to play cricket for England. For Chicago's Gioria Petersen, true satisfaction was to be gained in coaching Midwesterners out of their

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boorish tendencies, to train them not to peer pointedly at their watches during dinner or sneeze theatrically in polite circles, not to pick their teeth or chew their nails or give basso profundo burtrrps when meeting dignitaries.

She has a list of the most commonly asked questions she receives. "What conversation topics should be avoided?" is a common one. Ms Petersen's answer is tailored to suit America: "Sex, religion.

politics, and money." In the US, as she explains, people often blurt out gaffes such as how much do ya earn?" and "gee, nice watch bet that cost ya a bit!" She shudders. Other questions on the list include: "How do you let someone know they have

poor hygiene? How do you tell a man he has food on his moustache? How can I keep name from being mispronounced?"

In a city with so many Poles. that last question is a real poser. Ms Petersen's ingemious solution is to say: Ah, Mr Zbehnwickez! Kindly teach me how to pronounce your name."

At the Petersen class 1 attended, there were 12 adults, mostly well-to-do female executives from the telephone company AT&T and a leading Chicago bank. Sandra, a smiling

fortysomething, had old-fashioned standards and wanted to improve herself.

Heidi, rather younger, was the "victim of a merger and in transition" (a polite way of saying that she was out of work). She wanted to burnish her etiquette to help her chances of landing a good job. Joyce was heading back to her home state of Ohio to start her own business and wanted to brush up on her social skills. She would probably be doing some entertaining and wanted to know the proper form.

Ms Petersen showed them a typical place setting at a restaurant and probed them on which knives to use when. on where the side plate belongs, and how to spoon soup away from oneself.

On that classic dilemma of how to peel a banana at a state banquet, the Petersen doctrine that one should "avoid ordering what is not attractiveeaten". She reminds her classes that the hamburger, while a high point of American cooking, is a tricky piece of kit when one is entertaining certain South American folk, for whom eating by hand is a

Modern American etiquette also involves deft teaching in electronic conversation via telephone, computer or fax (quite rightly she forbids the speaker phone), plus the stolid dogmas\_of political correctness. For instance, Ms

Petersen recommends to clients that they learn to refer to the "waitron" (a revolting term which is slowly replacing "waiter" and "waitress"). They are also urged to learn to refer to "briefings" rather than "meetings", and to talk of overseas acquaintances as 'non-American-born" rather

than "foreign". Good God," I blurt out. "What on earth is wrong with foreign?" Ms Petersen explains: The dictionary definition of 'foreign' is that it is something that does not

On the first-names-versus-

Try to

remember

not to kill and saw the meat -- it is already dead . . . '

surnames controversy, she is a traditionalist. "We jump to first names too quickly in this country," she says. "You will absolutely never offend anyone with formality." I was "Mr Letts" throughout, and felt a rare sense of inner calm that

The brash may say that it is ail a waste of time, and that in a world which becomes ever more commerce-led, we will all end up as mannerless oiks. Maybe. But with people like Gloria Petersen at the front line, the battle is not yet lost. Pupils of her excellent charm school are given a "workbook" which is decorated with helpful quotations.

William Thourlby said it all: "In this world there are two kinds of class — first class and no class. You must develop the first or you will have to live

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### Philip Howard



#### ■ Rogue or telephone or greasy - polls can be hobbit-forming

In a poll among the grassroots there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, rogue opinion poll, filled with pie charts and oozy extrapolations, nor yet a secret poll privately commissioned by a political party, with nothing in it to sit down on or get your teeth into. It was a hobbit poll. And that means comfort and fundamental conclusions that a man can sit happily down on. And no need to cross the street and put your umbrella up to avoid one of Bob Worcester's clipboard-works, with their ingratiating, fixed smiles and miles of meaningless questions to which there is no sensible answer that does not start, "It all

depends what you mean by . . .

This hobbit was a very intelligent hobbit.

And he had noticed two things. First, that hobbits and polls were born at approximately the same date. For George Gallup founded the American Institute of Public Opinion in 1935. And The Hobbit was published in 1937. and has never been out of print since. And second that, from their names, opinion polls have a place in the insanely complicated family trees of wild Tolkienery. For instance, Gallup is one of the Galadrim (tree-people"), the Elves (mostly Silvan) of Lórien, and by his name descended from golden-graphic Galadriel herself. I fear that NOP has Orc blood, and is related to Nom, the Mannish word for "wisdom". While MORI is a name of power and terror, for Nori is a Dwarf of the House of Durin. And Moria means nothing less than Khazad-dum. 'black pit", the greatest of the Dwarf-halls, the mansion and folk-home of Durin's Folk-

The hobbit, whose own name has passed into common speech along with Gallup. wondered whether there might be some other connection between these two fashionable schools of rubbish, NOP and ORC. So he set out to test his theory on his Hobbit's Rural Rides. And he found that the line between Middle-Earth and opinionfunsters is as strong as an Ent and as rank as

ow of course there was fantasy before hobbits, from Daphnis and Chloë to Peter Pan. And Herodotus invented statistics of sorts. 25 centuries before Gallup. But the cult for both hobbits and opinion polls is an old song that is sung particularly loudly today, from American campuses to British politicians engaged in their latest fantasy war between good and evil.

Neither is the whole truth. The Hobbit was the one flawless masterpiece that Tolkien wrote. The Silmarillion and the rest (to some extent even The Lord of the Rings) are waffle as pretentious as the manifestos of all parties. They cannot be translated into meaningful English. Both hobbits and pollsters are sometimes silly. Both set out to dazzle outsiders with cod scholarship. When pollsters or Terry Pratchett fans tell you that something (a campaign?) is historic, remind them that history is merely something that may or may not have happened, written by someone who was not there and read in

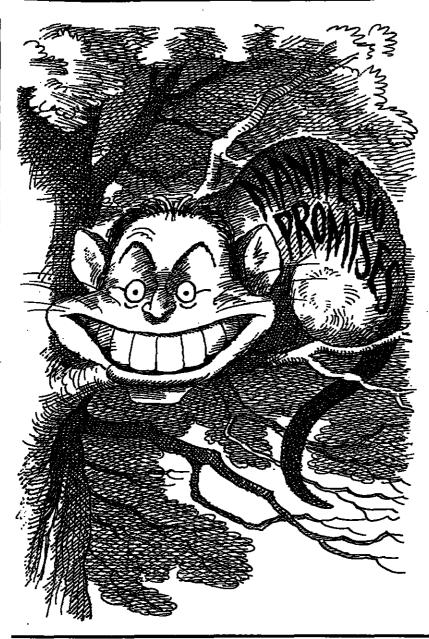
manifestos or fantasies by the gullible. The same degradation of a sharp technical term as has happened to meaningful in fantasy and Pollspeak (cf. waffle, froth and hypocrisy). Meaningful was once used by philosophers to distinguish a statement that could be verified or disproved from one that was in this technical sense "meaningless". So, "Today is Friday" is meaningful. But "It is a beautiful day" is meaningless. Then some pretentious prat started to use meaningful as a posher variant for "expressive" or "meaning", as in "The spin doctor gave him a meaning look." And meaningful became unusable by any careful writer or speaker. The word is still of course widely used by politicians, as in their meaningful dialogue. Both hobbits and opinion polls are branches of fantasy. Both are popular

because they are escapes from being grownup in a real world. One Poll to bind them all, One Poll to find

One Poll to bring them all and in the darkness

As Ari the Learned, polister and fantasist, wrote in his Prologue to Islendingabók around AD 1130: But if anything is mistaken in this account, one should prefer

whatever proves to be more accurate."





## Blair's control freaks

ony Blair is in trouble. The as-sertion, you may think, is ludi-crous. Though the poll gap may be narrowing, Labour remains miles ahead. I still expect Mr Blair to win. But which battle? There are two: there is his fight to return to Westminster in May with a comfortable majority. Second, and quite different, there is the struggle to establish himself as a Prime Minister who can win the respect and hold the hearts of the British people in the often adverse years to follow.

In his anxiety about winning the first battle, Mr Blair is forfeiting the second, and the error is becoming serious. Whether or not he wins on May I, it will thereafter matter hugely to him whether he is still loved. Unless he is careful, the electorate could be on the verge of carrying shoulder-high and dumping at the door of Downing Street a man they inwardly dislike and have already secretly resolved to punish.

Look at a converse example. Though it remains fashionable to disparage John Major's seven years in government, his record will soon be seen as one of surprising achievement. With a majority dwindling below zero and his party split by a question of tectonic proportions -Europe - Mr Major kept the parliamentary show on the road and ran a rather active administration.

How? Critical to his unsinkability has been the Prime Minister's consistently greater popularity than his party. Though often mocked, John Major has never really been disliked. At various crunchpoints in his premiership, mutinous Tory MPs, a wary eye on their own constituency associations, have been reminded that the Conservative Party in the country likes - I will almost say loves - its leader, and has never wavered in this. Last June, during the leadership election, this proved critical. And, hard though Mr Major may find this to believe, a sneering press could have been a good deal more brutal had more journalists and their readers found it possible seriously to dislike him (or, one might add, his family). He has kept

the sympathy of millions. from the start. This is the one citadel Tony Blair has failed so far to storm. He has not won the hearts of his party, of the press, or of the electorate. He has not even won their affections. If he triumphs on May 1, then for the far greater battles which follow it is vital that we at least start by liking him. If he loses, it will be in our affections that his only hope will lie.

If the Labour leader can't break free of his programmers now, and show he's human, he will never do so in office

Parris

I see no reason why Mr Blair should despair of being liked. He is not, despite his present reputation, a cold fish. From none of my early brushes with him as a younger MP do I remember an inhuman or unfeeling individual. Those who knew him well in earlier days find the image now presented to the nation hard to reconcile with the man they once knew. Good friends say they do not recognise the radio-controlled android that the rest of Britain now seems to see: that slightly spooky quality evaporates,

they insist, on closer acquaintance. How, then, has it come about? The dehumanising of Tony Blair has arisen as part of one of the great

political confidence tricks of our era. This has been the campaign by a handful of individuals around him to persuade their party, to persuade the media, to persuade history, to persuade each other

and to persuade the Labour leader himself that his party's recovery in the polls since 1992 has been due mainly to the marketing and management techniques of these men.

It has not. By far the most powerful reason for Labour's recovery has been the nation's impatience after nearly two decades of government by the other party, and our exasperation with John Major's unlikeable present crew. A second factor has been the good impression given by Tony Blair personally, on his accession to the leadership. A third has been the unthreatening nature of his newly found ideology, and the sense of

unity now conveyed by his party.
Only here, and marginally, do the caballists of whom I speak have half an argument. Their religion has been the cult of control, their motto Grip for Grip's Sake. The new leader did need to take a grip, and they helped him. But the process has now gone beyond reason. The cabal has forgotten that the argument for reform was at least as important as the whip by which it was accomplished. Now the caballists sim-

ply worship the whip. Within the party and in their dealings with the press, they have become an anti-intellectual force. trying to close off or close down all questioning. Convinced that they are the architects of Mr Blair's ascendency, they have convinced him that they must be the guardians of it. They have surrounded their leader by a wall of glass. Access to him must be controlled. The nature of his exchanges with the news media must be controlled. Contact with the general public must be controlled. No unrehearsed encounter, no situation which might develop in an unpredictable direction must be allowed.

What must baffle the real professionals at public relations in politics - such as Kenneth Clarke - is that this is such dreadful public relations. It is kids' PR: grade 1. The public love you for your untucked shirts and un-

tucked opinions. When your hair is out of place or your clanger provokes a selfindulgent giggle, they laugh with you. When your hair or your phraseology is sprayed into place, they laugh at you.

obody who has watched Mr Blair's news conferences can have failed to notice a clammy chill in the atmosphere as the event unfolds with the precision and behind-the-scenes organisation of a Royal Wedding. But every now and again the staging slips for a moment and you see the wires. For me, the episode when it became clear that his staff had told him from whom to accept questions was one of those defining moments. The tension in Mr Blair's eyes, the sweat on his face, the working jaw, clenched neckmuscles and anger in the eyes of his lieutenants whenever control falters are horrid to behold.

They are not new to me. There was a time, after 1986, when a sort of triumphalism gripped Conservative Central Office, and those around Margaret Thatcher began to interpret her

predominance as reason not to relax and act generously, but to seek out and squash every gnat that might tease her dignity. She grew distant, her guard over-mighty. All sense of humour was lost. The wall of glass descended. The name Maggie looked ever less appropriate. Former fans ceased to like her.

That is how she ended. It is no way for Mr Blair to start. The "Lynton Charles" between "Tony" and "Blair" looks daily

less misplaced It is not too late for Mr Blair. Well into his campaign in 1992, John Major kicked over the traces. To the astonishment of a cynical news media he mounted a battered soap-box produced from the boot of a car in Luton, and spoke to an unruly crowd. The gesture was of defiance, not only of a seemingly adverse fate, but of his own communications team.

"Turning points" are too easy to invent with hindsight. Luton was no more a turning point for the Tories than the Sheffield rally was for Labour, but just as Sheffield tugged at the sleeve of a nation already doubtful about Labour. so, in memorable shorthand Luton gave people phrases for what they already liked about Mr Major, and for what had thus far irritated them about Conservative Central Office's gutless campaign, with its rigged "meetings" between the Prime Minister and the people.

The soap-box also reminded us of what, if we were less cowed by the fashionable and self-serving idiocies of the public relations industry, we ought to find obvious: that nothing gets through to people like spontaneity. Think back to that ambush earlier this week, when Neil Hamilton and his wife confronted Martin Bell. In a day of contrived photo-opportunities by party leaders, this seemed the only unpackaged

news of the day, easily knocking "bigger" stories from the front pages. Mr Blair will be better able than 1 am to see the occasions in the days ahead when he too could knock the programmed campaign from its course; when he could seize the microphone, call a heckler from the crowd and offer him a platform; when he could smash his way out of a daily schedule and go walkabout. We need a visible symbol that he has broken the grip of his minders scorned them, even. We need him to show he is not afraid of them, not afraid of us, not afraid of argument, not afraid of the unrehearsed. He could do it now. If he will not now, then will he ever?

and no one is proposing to argue

with 100 large, drunk men in thick

STANDING as the anti-sleaze

candidate for Tatton is not Martin

Bell's first experience of electoral politics. In October 1951, Bell was

13 and head boy of Taverham Hall, a small prep school in Nor-

folk. His teachers organised a mock election. Bell, whose journal-

ist father wrote staunchly liberal

opinion pieces for The Eastern

Daily Press, was chosen as the

articulate," says Olaf Brun, who

stood as the Conservative against

Bell and is now an East Anglian

"He was very popular and very

Liberal candidate.

beards and dungarees.

Prep done

Labour's learning curvers

Tessa Blackstone

says eternal students

will be encouraged

ritain's best way to promote prosperity is to end complacency about the skills of the workforce. Fifty-three per cent of our 18-year-olds are in education, compared to 84 per cent in France and 85 per cent in Germany. One in six adults has a very low level of literacy and numeracy, being unable, for example, to calculate change from simple purchases. Among employ-ers, more than one in five believe their firms' productivity is hampered by skill shortages. While the Tories dither, Labour has devised imaginative policies to respond to these failures.

Two challenges must be faced. First, a wider range of people should be helped to unleash their talents and to improve their employability. People's chances of becoming more skilled are heavily dependent on their jobs, their earnings, the size of their employer, and how well they did at school. For example, some-one with a degree is eight times more likely to receive job-related training than someone without any previous qualifica-nons. The result is a vicious spiral which exacerbates inequality of opportunity.

The second challenge is to encourage learning that is lifelong. In the past, young people acquired skills that were expected to last them throughout their lives. Today, technological change means that much of what is learnt has a finite and shrinking life. People must continually acquire higher levels of knowledge, skills and understanding. It is absurd to assume that education starts at five and ends at 16, 18 or even 25.

Labour's measures to raise standards in schools will make school-leavers more able and willing to go into further education or training. The one-off windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities has featured prominently in the election campaign. How Labour will spend it has not. It will fund an ambitious programme to give 250,000 under-25s jobs and qualifications. But is learning a regular activity for so few people? Why do so many people do none at all? Why does almost everybody do less than they would like?

Answers lie in the obstinate barriers that people face; the leisure they have to give up, the distance they have to travel. the high cost of many courses, the poor quality of information and the confusing array of options. Some providers are finding innovative ways of knocking down these barriers, and there is clear evidence of the success of employee development schemes provided by companies such as Ford and Rover, in-work learning centres, and multimedia softdevelopments have been piecemeal.

Thirty years ago the Open University was established by Harold Wilson's Government. Since then it has awarded 160,000 degrees. Such institutions as the OU and Birkbeck College have made higher education available to people for whom it would have otherwise been impossible. Other universities are now responding better to the needs of parttime and mature students. The scale of change required for training is much greater. That is why Labour's University for Industry is so important.

The University for Industry will be open to everyone, providing new ways for them to develop their skills, gain qualifications at whatever level, improve their job prospects, and take control over their own learning programmes and careers. The university would bring together the best courses, materials, expertise and information, and make them available to vast numbers of new learners. Some will learn at work, others at home. But if the initiative is to have a big impact on those who are left out at present, it is vital that people have easy access to public ocations. There should be a national network of local centres, in libraries, schools and high street outlets, offering equipment, learning packages, tutoring and guidance. This would allow the government to take a strategic approach to the long-term skill and knowledge needs of the workforce, and to commis-

sion new courses.

The university should also inspire greater demand for learning, which the evidence shows is higher than has been assumed and than is being met. Other ways of encouraging both individuals and employers will be needed. Companies with "Investors in People" status are much more likely to help their employees to develop their skills beyond those needed simply for the job. Labour will be promoting a rapid extension of this initiative among small firms. But with relationships between employers and employees weakening, and career patterns becoming more fractured, people should be helped to take greater responsibility for their own development. They will be able to do so through "Individual Learning Accounts", bring-ing together contributions from the individual, the employer, and where necessary the State. Labour will be kickstarting the scheme by putting £150 into each of a million accounts, using unspent money from Training and Enterprise Councils, for people in specific targeted groups, such as women returning to work or changing careers

investment of their own. No government can guarantee that everyone will fulfil his or her potential. All governments should provide more vigorous leadership than the Conservatives have over the past 18 years. The government must promote a learning culture so that "eternal student" is never again a term of abuse.

after a break, if they make a small

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

#### Hitchens' stitchin's

THE LABOUR PARTY'S morning news conference came alive for the first time yesterday when The Express unleashed its secret weapon: Peter Hitchens, a nuclear-tipped rottweiler of a re-porter who cannot abide Labour, old or new:

When Hitchens jumped to his feet and demanded satisfactory answers to his questions on education, Blair became so exasperated that he warned this frothing mastiff to control himself. otherwise "we may not call you again".

Hitchens and Labour are sparring partners of old, for he tormented Neil Kinnock about the socalled Jennifer's Ear episode of the last election, concerning a party political broadcast about two girls with ear trouble. One enjoyed private treatment and was seen immediately; the other, working class, went for NHS treatment and

was kept waiting. But Hitchens discovered that the broadcast painted an unfair picture of the health service, and hounded Kinnock so much afterwards that eventually he was roughed up by Labour minders and made the news himself. Yesterday, Hitchens accused

Blair of lying, claiming that the Labour Party manifesto backs guidelines that would prevent parents sending their children to grant-maintained schools such as the London Oratory, which is attended by Blair's son. You are quite wrong," blurted

Blair before issuing his warning to Hitchens, who has clearly escaped the clutches of The Express's proprietor, the Labour-supporting Lord Hollick.





• Tony Blair yesterday missed a chance to thank the man who has done more to damage the Tory party than any of his own troops. Mohamed Al Fayed flew in to Battersea heliport just as Blair was waiting in the lounge, and although he clearly saw Al Fayed land, he scarpered before there was any chance of an encounter.

## Strong hand

ALL THOSE in favour of stricter discipline in schools might care to note the recent example of a Tokyo teacher. Leading a school camping trip, he found that two pupils had brought sweets along and not offered to share them. To punish them, he presented them with two hunting knives and told them to disembowel themselves, saying it was the only honourable course to

When they refused, he beat them with a tent pole and had to be restrained by colleagues when he began to make a noose from a guy-rope. In his defence, he said he was annoyed with them. "We have suspended the teacher for three months," said the Tokyo school board's Tomio Shimazaki. "We wish to make it clear that ordering pupils to commit hara-kiri is no longer acceptable."

#### Don't count . . .

THE TORY chicken, dragged into the mire of the election campaign to scare Tony Blair into a televised debate with John Major, has a past as an athlete. My picture shows the old bird in fleeter days. in another election year, 1992, running the London Marathon.

Yesterday at the Flora London Marathon office, amid the preparations for this year's race on Sunday, there were no signs that the chicken was going to run again. We've got a rhino, a bear, a Womble and a sunflower," said an official. "But no chickens."

### Papa proper

TOLLING BELLS rather than rutting bulls sum up the mood for this year's Hemingway Days festival in Key West, Florida. Started

16 years ago in honour of Papa Hemingway, who lived periodically on the island, the annual fiveday festival features prodigious beer-drinking and a Hemingway lookalike contest.

Hemingway's family, however, have had enough and are demanding an undisclosed fee and some degree of control if the festival is to continue. Hemingway's middle son, Pat-

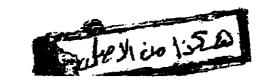
rick, has complained that the types who attend the festival have given Hemingway the reputation of a big drinking beachcomber burn. The lookalikes have vowed to continue their contest nonetheless,



Chicken running

arable farmer. "I suppose I represented the immobile country lot." Wayne Lawton, the present headmaster, says that according to school records, Bell "took the school by the horns. His powers of advocacy won it for him." The result Brun. Conservative, 17 votes; a socialist who went on to

Winchester, 18 votes; Bell, Liberal, 19 votes. And, adds Brun, "Martin was the only boy to get a scholarship that year".





## THE TIMES CHALLENGE

We call Major and Blair to a debate before our readers

Some time next year, the 1997 election campaign will be finally tidied away between hard covers. The journalists will become book-writers. The voters will become statistics. What can we see now that will be worth remembering then? Will anything be left of this election once the chicken costumes are back in pantomime and Tatton is just another part of Cheshire?

The immediate answer is a miserable one. The campaign is three weeks old now and by general assent has been a disappointing democratic show. It is slowing rather than quickening its pace. Few minds seem to have been moved. Too few minds have been engaged in the transformation of British politics that is the most likely outcome among both main political parties. There is a gap at the centre of this election season which must be filled. We are today inviting John Major and Tony Blair to fill that gap and accept this Times challenge to face each other in public and televised debate.

Yesterday, following discussions over several weeks, we asked the two men who aim to be Prime Minister in May to meet in central London on the evening of Sunday. April 20. We repeat that invitation before all Times readers now. The party advisers seem to show a general good will to take part. We have noted the many public statements of desire for debate from senior politicians on both sides. That general interest in participating needs quickly to be translated into the national interest in seeing the

challengers face each other. We recognise that others have sincerely tried to stage such a debate. Teams representing the main broadcasters came close to reaching agreement at the beginning of the campaign. We backed those talks and, at the time of their collapse, we much regretted the loss of trust and confidence that followed. Trivial recriminations - and a few days of stardom for a chicken - were a poor reward for hours of talks about talk.

At the same time we also recognised that the negotiations might fail. The campaign had at that time barely begun. Neither side knew whether or not some great issue or argument might take over the election, concentrate minds and render a debate unnecessary. First, Mr Major seemed reluctant; then Mr Blair seemed persuaded that safety-first was the best policy. The broadcasters had to deal both with the staging of the debate and the arguments of the smaller parties about their shares of broadcast time. There were widespread worries that, if a debate were called, the poll would become presidential and characterbased to the exclusion of hard policy analysis. We, therefore, placed our own simple proposal before the partie simple request that it be considered if the time became ripe.

That ripe time is now. Even without the prospect of a debate to divert the campaigners' minds, the central issue has become one of trust and personal character. Voters have been asked to believe that the very soul of the Tory party has somehow been rehoused in Mr Blair. They have been asked to believe that Mr Major has a resolution under fire that has been underestimated in the past and will serve Britain powerfully in the future. Voters deserve to see these qualities tested directly before their eyes.

Unless a debate is agreed within the next few days it seems unlikely that one will be agreed at all. Both sides should now step back to the table. If their spirits are unwilling, great clouds of complexity can be raised in order to obscure their preference not to face each other before the people. If they truly want to take part, there need be no real obstacle at all.

We propose a debate with adequate time for both men to amplify and extend their arguments. There is no point in a meeting if it merely allows more outlets for stock phrases that we have all heard before. We propose that only Mr Major and Mr Blair take part. They are the men who stand to be Prime Minister of this country. Theirs is the debate that voters want to hear. That is the debate that we wish to stage. We have discussed this plan with the broadcasters and would be surprised if they did not choose to attend the event and cover it to the very best of their ability.

The legal entitlements of the Liberal Democrats will be a matter for the broadcasters to consider along the lines that were already contemplated in the previous negotiations. Mr Ashdown has his moral and legal rights and knows them well. We expect that the broadcasters would match those rights. But we do not believe that this single evening, this one special part of the campaign, should include Mr Ashdown. Three debaters make bad debate; the voters of this country deserve good debate by the men who alone are set to lead them.

There will doubtless be other difficulties too. None of these problems should halt a debate organised by this newspaper. In the United States, which has a long experience of presidential and gubernatorial debates, the events are not normally organised by the same groups which broadcast them. There is a separation of roles which could usefully

be followed here. We offer The Times as the host of this debate. This newspaper has strong recent experience of staging large public events, from the last visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to the first major appearance by Salman Rushdie: Mr Blair has appeared at Times debates, as has Lady Thatcher. The Times has followed a policy of neutrality in covering this campaign which has won appreciation from politicians and supporters of both parties. Our readers, from whom we would invite the debate audience, have a political affiliation that is closest of all broadsheet newspapers to that of the country as a whole.

This debate would be the first event of its kind in British political history. It would play a powerful role in concentrating the the men who want to them. It would allow voters to see their candidates under pressure from each other, without the intrusions of advisers, strategists and TV interviewers. We believe that both men would show themselves well; that Mr Blair might escape from the clinging bonds of caution and his paralysing cheekand-jaw smile; that Mr Major too would come alive in a genuine battle about who was the toughest fighter and the leader most deserving of trust. If they refuse to show themselves at all, then we, our readers and all British voters will be entitled to draw conclusions from that too.

#### A SHARP GERMAN LESSON

#### Bombers and killers should not be engaged in dialogue

Europe's "critical dialogue" with Iran died in a Berlin courtroom yesterday. The longawaited verdict in the so-called Mykonos trial made clear that the most senior figures in the Iranian Government were directly implicated in the assassination of Kurdish dissidents. Iran has been found guilty not only of sponsoring international terrorism. but of systematic deception of those European countries still attempting to maintain civilised relations with the Islamic republic. It has neither modified its unacceptable export of violence and revolution, nor justified the forbearance shown to it over the

past five years.

The diplomatic reaction has been swift: Germany has recalled its ambassador from Tehran, Iranian officials have been expelled from Bonn and Germans have been told not to travel to Iran. To underline solidarity with Germany's actions, European Union ministers immediately agreed a sufficiently tough response to ensure that, for once, disapproving words are followed by sanctions that bite. The EU is to suspend its "critical dialogue" forthwith and recall all ambassadors from Tehran. This will be followed by a series of measures to hit Iran politically and materially. These will probably include the expulsion and permanent exclusion from any EU country of Iranian intelligence officials still resident in Europe, a cutting back of official visits, a toughening of visa restrictions and a formal restatement

unlikely to support the American calls for a full investment embargo. Britain has long argued that Tehran's refusal to lift the fatwa on Salman Rushdie, and indeed the recent increase in the reward for his murder, was sufficient evidence that it was not serious in seeking better relations with the West. Britain, which has no full ambassador in Tehran, has already implemented most of the measures announced yesterday. For the past five years it has been lobbying its partners to ensure that the critical dialogue, agreed in 1992, was more critical and less of a dialogue.

of a full arms embargo. Trade will be

discouraged - though Europe is still

has long believed that it had a special role to play as a bridge to an unpopular and isolated regime. The Germans, without the traditional links to other countries in the Middle East enjoyed by Britain and France, saw Iran as an area where they could give a diplomatic lead while themselves profiting from trade relations. They went out of their way to engage the Iranian Government in political talks, economic agreements and cultural exchanges. Ignoring the warnings from others, they were the main proponent of the thesis that President Rafsanjani was, at heart, a moderate and that pragmatists would gain the upper hand if Iran could show material benefit from better relations with the West. This even led to the invitation to the head of Iranian intelligence to visit Bonn and hold talks with Helmut Kohl's intelligence co-ordinator - to the consternation of Britain and America.

Iran has continued to assassinate its opponents abroad, undermine the Middle East peace process, encourage Islamic extremists and set up bases of subversion in countries such as Sudan. There may, indeed, be a power struggle going on in the run-up to the coming Iranian presidential elections between modernisers, seeking more trade and Iran's return to the community of nations, and religious obscurantists who believe in a permanent jihad against the West. But there is little evidence that this struggle has moderated Iranian behaviour

Mr Rushdie has often accused Europe of cowardice in refusing to face up to the nature of Iran's regime and of trying to appease the mullahs. He has pointed out - rightly - the contradiction even in the stance of Britain. which has called for tougher action but is still officially sponsoring British exhibitors at Iranian trade fairs. Germany yesterday learnt, to its cost, that appeasing extremism does not pay. Perhaps all Europe will now understand that those who bomb and kill are not the kind of people who should be engaged in any dialogue, however critical.

The problem has been Germany. Bonn

That policy has been shown to be a failure.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### Small businesses' support of Labour

From Mr Kenneth Spencer

Sir, We write as small business people who want success for our own companies and prosperity for the whole nation. The present Conservative Government has taken small firms for granted and has done too little to

A small business has gone bust every three minutes of every working day since 1992; we have been hit by II tax increases, and red tape has grown three times faster than it has been cut. Mr Major's belated announcement earlier this week on business rates (re-port, April 9) will do too little to make up for what we have lost. This is why we and others have taken a fresh look at Labour.

Labour has a firm commitment to sound economic policies to deliver stability, low inflation and interest rates as low as possible. There will be no increase in the top rate of income tax. Labour's small business spokeswoman, Barbara Roche, has been willing to listen and to understand small businesses' concerns,

Labour will tackle late payment through its proposal to introduce a statutory right to interest. It is pledged to cut red tape and would, for the first time, make sure up to half the members of the Deregulation Taskforce re-

present small firms.

We believe that small businesses have nothing to fear from Labour's proposals to introduce a national minimum wage. Labour has made clear that it will be sensibly implemented, so that it does not harm competitiveness, and that small business will have a strong voice on the proposed Low Pay Commission.

We believe that small business can look forward with confidence to a profitable future with a Labour govern-

Seventy-nine other leaders of small businesses have asked to be associated with these sentiments.

KENNETH SPENCER (Co-owner, Collective Enterprises Ltd. Glossopt PAUL KALINAUCKAS (Joint Managing Director, Escate) Group Ltd, Wolverhampton). COLIN MUGE (Director, Walden Export Services Ltd. Cambridge). JOHN PAYNTER RITA PHILLIPS (Co-owner, Solent Diagnostics, Fareham), Bleaklow House, Howard Town Glossop, Derbyshire.

#### Labour questioned

From the Minister of State. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Mr Robin Cook (letter, April 10) suggests that "anyone who thinks that Tony Blair is going to sell Britain out in Europe hasn't been paying attention to the last three years". On the contrary, we have been paying too much attention. That is why federalist European leaders welcome the prospect of a malleable Britain under a Labour government. That is why those worried about the fate of Britain in Europe should vote Conservative.

Labour's European agenda is instinctively integrationist and would damage Britain irrevocably. Cook himself admits that they would not "regard integration as a dirty word". Labour would make six surrenders in just six weeks if they were to sign the

new EU Treaty next June.
They would unconditionally surrender the British veto in four impor-tant areas: regional policy, industrial policy, social policy and environ-mental policy. They would surrender our social opt-out by signing up to the job-destroying social chapter, and back a new treaty chapter on employ-

ment, costing jobs not creating them. Labour's latest side-step is yet another example of Labour preferring cover-up to combat. Labour are petrified of real debate in this election campaign. Mr Cook's admission on Newsnight last night that he would not share a platform with any fellow Labour MP on Europe says it all. Labour's approach to debate is to silence it. This may work for a power-hungry party at home but it cannot work abroad. Europe is not soundbite politics. It is about fighting for British interests through tough negotiations month after month.

Labour are cracking already under the pressure of this election campaign; dread to think how they would handle the pressure of an EU summit.

Yours, DAVID DAVIS, Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, SWI.

From Mr Raymond Garlick

Sir, Your leading article (April 5) says that Mr Blair "asked why, if even a parish council was allowed to raise revenue, it should be shocking that a Scottish parliament could do so too?". Is it not still more shocking that a proposed Welsh assembly should be denied - even in abeyance - the legal

right of an English parish council?

Yours faithfully, RAYMOND GARLICK. 26 Glannant Flats. College Road, Carmarthen.

#### The costs and benefits of recycling what we throw away

From Mr Barry Sheerman, Parliamentary Candidate for Huddersfield (Labour)

Sir, Congratulations on your timely editorial of April 7, "Full cycle", and the report on recycling on the same day. The issues addressed are a perfect illustration of how short-term economic gains frequently override longterm environmental needs. Such issues need to be addressed in the run-

up to the election.

There is no logic behind an economic structure which encourages the extraction of raw materials and their conversion to products, followed by their inevitable dumping as "waste". This linear system of resource-use clearly has no future and its global environmental impact raises serious doubts about our own economic struc-

Surely, the solution is an economic structure which ensures the efficient use of all resources, including renewable ones, by developing a cyclical system. Common sense dictates that we use our resources more efficiently through a process which recycles waste materials back into production and use. The introduction of a landfill tax last year, together with the "levy" on packaging which will follow the recently introduced regulations, are a

Effective sustainable waste management is crucial for both our economy and our environment. We must ensure the right balance is struck be-tween sensible recycling policies. waste minimisation, energy from waste, incineration, landfill and other methods of waste use/disposal.

Yours sincerely, BARRY SHEERMAN, Norwood Green, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

From Miss Polly Simpson

Sir. How simplistic to compare recycling with landfill purely on the basis of cost. The challenge facing those of us who work in the waste industry, as I do, and have to deal with these complicated issues on a daily basis is to make good environmental policy good economic policy too.

It is relatively easy to find reasons for not recycling our waste, particu-

larly domestic waste; it can be expensive to collect, sort and transport to reprocessors. Unfortunately people are not queueing up to have landfill sites established in their neighbourhoods or rushing out to lobby their local MP for an incinerator.

In the UK we are lucky enough still to have plenty of landfilling opportunities — unlike many of our European neighbours who have been forced to find alternative routes for their waste. Incineration, with the recovery of heat and energy, is considered preferable to landfill by even the most hardened environmentalist. It also offers, arguably, the most sensible recovery route for some materials. However, much of what we throw away, particularly in commercial operations, can and is easily, cheaply and effectively recy-cled. The same materials would be lost to us if landfilled, either before or after incineration.

The true costs of waste collection and disposal have been well disguised and hidden in the past, but this is getting harder. Landfill site operators are becoming fussier about what they will and will not accept for fear of future contamination; the law has been tightened up on the monitoring and con-trol of pollution from landfill sites; incinerators up and down the country were decommissioned last year because they did not meet new controls on emissions; and the producers of packaging are going to have to pay for the recovery and recycling of their products from next year.

Recycling may not come cheap, but the alternatives are only just beginning to include the real costs to the environment in their price to the consumer. The sooner a fair comparison can be made between all the options the sooner we can choose between the true costs, both financial and environ-

Yours faithfully, POLLY SIMPSON, 443 London Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

From the Editor of Plastics in the Environment

Sir, The fact that suspending waste collection saves Washington \$2.5 million a year, as you report, simply shows that, as usual, the environment has not been factored into the account-

ing system and that the collection system wasn't a particularly good one. Even in the US, where neither landfill sites nor unreconstructed marketworship are exactly in short supply, there is a well-developed, sustainable recycling industry, with very high lev-

els of popular participation, even for

plastics where scrap prices are indeed extremely low at the moment. This is part of the business cycle. It happens in all areas of the economy without the future of whole industries being written off. The difference here is that a few extremists from industry are trying to use a difficult situation to stigmatise a perceived rival and to encourage us to believe that there is no problem and that we can simply go on consuming, discarding and letting the

environment take the slack forever. Well, we can't, and it is a pity that The Times suggests that we can. In do-ing so, you simply repeat the propa-ganda from one extreme of a highly complex issue.

Yours sincerely, A. R. WARMINGTON. Editor, Plastics in the Environment, 45 Britton Street, EC1.

From Ms Danielle Byrne

Sir. Today I reused a copy of your newspaper which I had found discarded on a Northern Line train. It's not surprising therefore that I read with great interest your report and leading article on the "recycling

Recycling is not a simple panacea for all waste-management ills. To treat it as such merely invites the simplistic objections made in your columns. We all now know that recycling is only one of many options for minimising waste, but it is a useful and economic one, nonetheless.

The newspaper in question is now at home, awaiting my decision on how to reuse or recycle it next. I don't feel inclined to hide it in a hole in the ground or burn it and landfill the ash. The cost to the next generation of cleaning up the resulting mess seems like poor economics to me.

DANIELLE BYRNE. 22 Sheridan House, Wincott Street, SEII. April 7.

#### Hong Kong handover arrangements

From Mr Kerry McGlynn

Sir, Mr Dick Wilson claims (letter April 3) - as does the Chinese Government - that the arrangements for Hong Kong's Legislative Council elections in 1995 were in contravention of earlier (British) agreements with

This is a completely hollow claim. All the legal experts who gave evidence on this very issue to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee in 1994 testified that the electoral arrangements proposed by the Governor, Chris Patten, were fully consistent with the Joint Declaration, the Basic Law and past agreements and understandings reached between the British and Chinese Govern-

Indeed, recently the International Commission of Jurists has concluded that, in establishing a rubber-stamp provisional legislature, it is China which is in contravention of the Joint Declaration. At the same time the US Administration publicly described the establishment of the provisional legislature as "unwise, unnecessary and unjustified", and there were similar statements of dismay from officials and legislatures in other countries.

China has never tried to substantiate its claim that the present Legislative Council violates any agreements with Britain. If China actually believes Britain has breached any agreements, it should accept the Foreign Secretary's invitation to make a joint submission on the issue to the In-

ternational Court of Justice. The Chinese Government has refused to do so. Objective observers will draw their own conclusions from

Yours sincerely, KERRY McGLYNN (Press Secretary). Government House, Hong Kong. April 8.

From Professor Victor Funnell

Sir, The possibility of handing over Hong Kong's democratic political structures to the Chinese was not sabotaged by the colonial government's extention of the franchise for the Legislative Council in 1995, as Mr Wilson

Any pretext would serve the Beijing regime to abolish genuinely representative institutions, political parties and of course the previously agreed Bill of Rights. The media, too, are to come under strict government control.
What else would one expect from

the present leaders in Beijing? It is curious that some wish to blame Governor Patten for the well-known instincts and attitudes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Yours faithfully, V. C. FUNNELL (Visiting Professor, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing, 1995-96), 13 Woodland Way, Fairlight, Hastings, East Sussex. April 5.

#### Timely intervention

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Like Nigella Lawson (article, April 2), I set about adjusting the time on a score or more of watches, clocks, videos, hi-fis, time switches and bedside radios. Not, however, my

Since signing up for the Internet I have been intrigued by its ability, on being summoned, to reset my com-puter's internal clock. (This is just as well because, with my son away at university, I haven't a clue how to do it.) It usually says something like "PC

clock adjusted - it was two seconds slow" and the clock promptly jumps I was curious to know if it had the

power to recognise British Summer Time. Sure enough, on the Sunday morning it declared: "PC clock adjusted - it was 3600 seconds slow." If only I could plug the rest of the timepieces in the house into my computer.

Yours faithfully, BARRY HYMAN, 4 Priory View.

#### Field sports workers

From Mr Bernard Selwyn

Sir, You report (April 3) that the Union of Country Sports Workers seeks to protect an estimated 150,000 jobs linked to field sports. This figure has been quoted previously on behalf of field sports interests.

Yet Hansard gives a reply (March 20, Written Answer, column 880) by James Paice, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Employment, that a study produced for the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports estimates around 60,000 full-time jobs are directly dependent on all countryside sports and a further 30,000 inBushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

While, of course, there are valid ar-

guments for and against field sports regardless of the effect on employment, it would be helpful if there could be more precise estimates for particular sports and their local distribution if we are meant to be influenced by the

Yours sincerely, BERNARD SÉLWYN, 3 Hogarth Road, SW5.

Sport letters, page 40

Letters should earry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

#### Church entry charges From the Reverend Julian Barker

Sir, Now that a number of major fee for visitors, I suggest that the time has come for a card scheme.

People who contribute on a regular basis to their own parishes should be entitled to apply for a card which would give them entrance free of charge to all other church buildings. The application would have to be countersigned by the treasurer of their own church. The costs of the scheme could be covered by an administration charge, or by a small levy on those

churches which charge entrance. Those who already contribute heavily to the maintenance of the vast majority of our historic churches would feel that, as regular members, they had some small recognition of their generosity; and active churchpeople in a diocese could have free access to their own cathedral, to which they often contribute already through their parish share.

Such a scheme would reduce any sense of unfairness arising from the fact that those who worship in buildings which make a charge still have free entrance to all the others. It would also encourage the feeling that involvement in your own parish gives you a place in the whole Church; and it might even have a marginal effect in encouraging people to give on a regular basis.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN BARKER, Repton Vicarage, Derbyshire DE65 6FH.

#### Masonic membership From Mr Alasdair A. K. White

Sir, Mr Nicholas Page (letter, April 10) asks why, if Freemasonry is not a secret society. Masonic lodges cannot publish membership lists.

The Institute of Directors' policy is not to publish a membership list does that make it a secret society? Should businessmen be forced to declare their membership of the IoD before being appointed to run a com-pany? Would membership of the IoD preclude one from being an MP, a judge or a policeman?

Yours faithfully, ALASDAIR WHITE, Waversesteenweg 137, B-1560 Hoeilaart, Belgium. April 10.

#### Still no solution

From Mr Andrew Bradford

Sir, The female orgasm pill (report, April 8), even if it were to be combined with paracetamol to prevent head-aches, is all very well but it still won't mow the lawn.

Yours faithfully. ANDREW BRADFORD. Kincardine, Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

this evening attended the institu-

tion of Chemical Engineers' An-

nual Dinner at the London Hilton,

April 10: The Prince Edward. April 10: The Prince Loward, Patron, this evening attended a Concert given by the London Mozart Players in the Queen Efizabeth Hall, South Bank

April 10: The Prince of Wales today visited the Orkney Islands and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney (Mr

George Marwick).
His Royal Highness this morn-

ing visited St Magnus' Cathedral,

noon attended a Luncheon at the new community school in Orphir

and met members of the local

His Royal Highness later visited the Scapa Flow Visitors' Centre at the former World War II Naval

Base, Lyness, Hoy. The Prince of Wales afterwards

visited South Ronaldsay and met

April 10: The Duchess of Kent,

Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Logistic Corps and the Adjutant General's Corps, this

afternoon visited Princess Royal

members of the local community.

The Prince of Wales this after-

Park Lane, London WI.

Centre. London SEI. ST JAMES'S PALACE

Kirkwall.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

WINDSOR CASTLE April 10: The Queen, Lord High Admiral, took the Lord High Admiral's Divisions at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

this morning.

Her Majesty arrived at Tomes
Station and was received by Her
Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of
Devon (Lieutenant-Colone) the Earl of Morley) and the Mayor of Totnes (Councillor William

The Oueen drove to Britannia Royal Naval College and was received by the Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command (Admiral Sir Michael Boyce), the Commodore of the College (Commodore Philip Masterton-Smith RN) and the Mayor of Dartmouth (Councillor

Margaret Roberts).
The Parade received Her Majesty with a Royal Salute and The Queen inspected the Parade.

Her Majesty addressed the Parade and subsequently presented The Queen's Sword and bino-Her Majesty afterwards at-

tended a Luncheon with the Commodore and Officers of the College in the Senior Gunroom. The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors.

Surrey.
His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace.

Today's royal

engagements

Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond,

#### Dinner

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give tea to the Vestry of Trinity Church, Wall Street, at Windsor Castle.

The Princess Royal, as President, Riding for the Disabled, will visit the Mansion House. Angus Riding for the Disabled Group to open the South Bottymyre Centre, Inverarity. By Forfar. at 10.30; and will open the new Sheriff Court, West Bell Street. Dundee, at 12.20; as President, Save the Child-ren Fund, will visit a shop, in High Street, Arbroath, Angus, at 2.10. The Princess Margaret will attend mission, also spoke. a luncheon to mark World Parkin-son's Disease Day at Lancaster

House, St James's, at 1.05. The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, will meet Madam Wu Wenying, Chairman of the China National Textile Council. Kingsgate House, Victoria Street, SWI, at noon.

#### Memorial service Professor Wilfrid Hogarth Dowdeswell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Professor Bunny Dowdeswell, Emeritus Professor, University of Bath, was held on Tuesday, April 8, in Bath Abbey. Canon Mervyn Drewett officiated, assisted by the Rev Graham Force-Jones and the Rev Charles Roberts Mrs Alison Robbins, elder daughter, and Mr Colin Dowdeswell, son, gave read-

ings. Mr David Jewell, Professor Peter Kelly and Mr Nicholas Thomas paid tribute.

#### Barracks, Gütersloh, Germany. Mrs Julian Tomkins was in

Company of Chartered

YORK HOUSE

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended the annual dinner of the Company of Chartered Architects held last night at

Mrs Sylvia Reid, Master. Mr Julian Ryder Richardson, Upper Warden, Mr John Penton, Renter Warden, and Professor Peter Dale, Junior Warden, received the guests. The Master presided. The Lord Mayor, the Upper Warden and Miss Christable Albery. Director of the London Film Com-

#### Lectures

Royal Society Professor A. R. Hunter, FRS. Professor of the Saik Institute. La Jolla, United States, yesterday delivered the Croonian lecture to the Royal Society.

Sir Aaron Klug, OM, President of the Royal Society, was in the

#### Foundation for Science and Technology

The Lord Butterworth, CBE, DL presided at a Foundation lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society on Tuesday, April 8, 1997. Professor Richard Susskind, Mr Vernon Ellis and Sir Brian Jenkins spoke on: "The City - Its Role in the World of Virtual Financial Markets". The evening was sponsored by Andersen

#### Birthdays today

Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 61; Viscount Buckmaster, 76: Mr Joseph Burnett-Smart, former chairman. Robert Fleming Holdings, 67; Sir Raymond Carr, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 78; Mr Gervase de Peyer. clarinettist, 71; Sir Oscar De Ville, former chairman. Mever International, 72; Mr Clive Exton,

Mr James Alan Ferman, secretary, British Board of Film Classifica-tion, 67; Mr Michael Hindley. MEP, 50; Dr R.J.B. Knight, deputy director, National Maritime Museum. 53; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 63; the Earl of Sandwich, 54; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 79: Professor Michael Wright, Vice-Chancellor, Aston University, 50.



Charlotte Horton, 11, Scott Higgs, 12, Daniel Wood, also 12, and Michelle Liddiard, 11, all pupils from Oakfield School, Walcot, Swindon, sort through the scrapstore to find useful objects

## Making the most of a load of rubbish

By JOHN YOUNG

THE storeroom next to a school on the outskirts of Swindon, Wiltshire, is not exactly a treasure house. But its shelves are stacked with mundane items like egg boxes, plastic bottles and cartons, coloured paper and outdated desk diaries, coathangers, reels of clingfilm and tin foil, sheets of polystyrene, box files. rugs and carpets. The only slightly unusual items is a collection of empty violin

The sheer amount of material is a reminder that, despite generally greater environmental awareness, we are still a needlessly wasteful society. Recycling may have been partly discredited, at least from an economic point of view, but much of what we throw away can still be uti-

School news

Trust, as guest speaker.

Wycliffe College

Queenswood School
The Summer Term at Queens

lised or adapted for other

That is demonstrated by the large numbers of schools. community groups and vol-untary societies who pay a small subscription and whose members visit the storeroom each week in search of cheap or free materials for various projects. Chris Fisher, who helps to run the scrapstore, was a customer when she ran a Sunday school and a Brownie pack.

Swindon Children's Scrapstore was started 12 years ago by Friends of the Earth with support from Thamesdown (now Swindon) council and a grant from Allied Dunbar. It was initially managed as part of a Manpower Services Commission programme, but since the programme was abolished it has been run entirely by volunteers.

As well as promoting reuse and recycling to reduce the environmental impact of waste disposal, the project also helps to stimulate creativity in children in the use of the materials. A weekly collection

service is operated by a van supplied by the council with a volunteer driver, and an increasing number of local businesses take part in the "Funding is, of course, a perennial problem." Anne Billingham, the project secre-

tary, says. "Ideally we would like to move to industrial premises and employ more staff." She concedes that if business and industry eventually become less profligate in their attitude to waste, supplies will become scarcer. But that situation is still far off. "At the moment we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg.



Far too much stuff is still going into skips which should

be coming here."
Swindon Children's Scrapstore is among the entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte-Touche. The winning entries will be announced shortly.

argues, although only 36 of the

largest among 4,000 known "keyhole-shaped mounds" are

formally designated as imper-

on conflicting views of the

emperor's private rights as an

individual, versus public obli-

"Debate will no doubt turn

ial or family sepulchres.

## Japanese keep royal tombs shut

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

wood begins on Sunday, April 13, with Juliet Usher-Smith as Head Girl and Charlotte Philpott as RESISTANCE from Japanese imperial household officials is Deputy Head Girl. Confirmation will be on Saturday, April 19, at 10.45am, the service being conducted by the Bishop of Hertford and the Rev G. Rogers. The Queenswood Ball will be held on Saturday, June 28; further details impeding research into the country's history and archaeology, according to a leading scholar there. Although the Empéror Hirohito disclaimed Saturday, June 28; further details a divine ancestry and his own are available from the school. status as a living god in 1946. the Imperial Household Agenwith Dr Sue Campbell, Chief Executive of the Youth Sports cy has refused to allow investigation of burial mounds that might document the real origins of Japanese monarchy.

Wycliffe opens for the Summer Term April 13, with 750 students. Squash, Rowing, Tetrathlon, Fencing and Rugby Championship celebrations April 18. Prospective parents Open Day May 10. New Boarding House work commences May 12. OW Day June 28. Former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Francis McWilliams, Prize Giver, July 5. The Right Rev Michael Baughen, the former Bishop of Chester, preaches at Leavers' Service. Wyc-liffe International Summer Vaca-tion Courses July 7 to August 29.

#### Gray's Inn

The Treasurer of Gray's Inn, Judge Esyr Lewis, QC, represented the Inn at the memorial meeting for Mr Michael Saunders on

Archaeologists believe that the ancestors of most modern Japanese came from Korea 1,500 years ago; given the sensitive nature of Korean-Japanese relationships, there is official resistance to establishing the truth too clearly. Some of the tombs officially designated as imperial are nothing of the sort, but only

The agency currently supervises more than 800 graves. with the Imperial Household Agency's continued treatment of mounds as imperial tombs when the designation can

including those designated as the mausoleums of emperors hack to Jimmu, conqueror of much of Japan in the 4th century. Jimmu is now widely thought to be a mythical ancestor, and the whole question of Japanese imperial origins is being questioned in a manner unthinkable only a few years ago.

BIRTHS: Sir John Eliot, par-

liamentarian, St Germans, Corn-

wall, 1592: George Canning, Prime Minister 1827, London, 1770;

Sir Charles Halle, pianist, conduc-

Anniversaries

tion. Professor Edwards tor and founder of the orchestra

clearly be shown to be wrong,"

Professor Walter Edwards of

Tenri University in Nara says.

7th centuries AD are the vital

sites for documenting the be-

ginning of Japanese civilisa-

Tombs spanning the 3rd to

that bears his name, Hagen, Germany, 1819. DEATHS: Llywelyn ap lorwerth, Prince of Wales. Aberconway, 1240; Sir Gerald du Maurier,

actor-manager, London, 1934; Sir

imperial house as a statesupported institution." archaeological investigations can determine the dates and, Some 25 years ago, the perhaps, the owners. "There is Imperial Household Agency widespread dissatisfaction

asked "where we find people who delight in having their ancestors' graves exposed", when the question of studying Japanese origins was debated in the Diet. Now the core of the argument has shifted from the sacred origins of the imperial line to secular claims about rights and obligations in modern Japanese society. Source: Archaeology Vol 50

Archibald McIndoe, plastic surgeon. London, 1960; Josephine Baker, singer, Paris, 1975; Enver Hoxha, Albanian leader 1944-85, Albania, 1985. Napoleon abdicated and was ban-ished to Elba, 1814.

### **Forthcoming** marriages

and Miss A.P. Scrivens

Marlborough, Wiltshire

Mr V. Morawetz

Maidenhead.

Mr M.S. Musk

and Miss A. Fletcher

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs

Douglas Eastlake, of Warrington.

Cheshire, and Anne, daughter of

Mr and Mrs William Scrivens, of

The engagement is announced between Vito, son of Francesco and

Gisella Morawetz, of Cadorago

Como, and Alexandra, daughter of

The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mrs Linda

Musk and the late Mr Leslie

Musk, of Didsbury, Manchester, and Victoria, second daughter of

Mr and Mrs Michael Hesford, of

John and Tana Fleicher,

and Miss V.E. Hesford

Mr P.E. Becker

and Miss C.O. Politi The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Becker, of Hove, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Politi. of Knightsbridge.

Mr S.J. Borge and Miss F.S. Reichwald The engagement is announced between Stephen John, only son of

Wing Commander Gordon Burge, reid, and Mrs Burge, of Normanion on the Wolds, Nottinghamshire, and Fiona Sarah, daughter of Mr Peter Reichwald. of Hamonett, Gloucestershire and the late Mrs Jane Reichwald.

Mr I.A. Chalmers and Miss S.L. Orton

The engagement is announced between Iain Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Chalmers, of Much Marcle, Herefordshire, and Sophie Louise, only daughter of Mr Terence Orton, of Hadleigh, Suffolk, and Mrs Maureen Hill, of Selsdon, Surrey.

Mr G.B. Coomer and Miss V.A. Constable

The engagement is announced between Grev, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Coomer, of Oakhanger, Hampshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs Colin Constable, of Tiverton, Devon.

Mr J.H. Croft and Miss R.M. Taylor The engagement is announced between Jocelyn, younger son of Judge David Croft, QC, and Mrs Croft, of Rochester, Kent, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mr John Tanken of Suprement John Crofts of Supreme Taylor, of Summerseat, Lancashire, and Mrs F. Jane Sprackling, of

Melverley, Shropshire. Mr A.R. Harker

and Miss A. Scriven
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Alec Harker, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Scriven, of Droxford, Hampshire.

Mr G.M. Lewis and Miss S.G. Cripps

The engagement is announced between Gordon, eldest son of Major and Mrs Owen John Lewis, of Fowey, Cornwall, and Sarah, daughter of Mr Nicholas Cripps, of Cat Island, Bahamas, and Mrs James Douglas, of Dauntsey, Wiltshire.

Mr A. Rigney and Miss J. Allison The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and

Mrs A. Rigney, of Greenfield, Oldham, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Allison, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire

Mr J.D. Webster and Miss E.J. Cherry The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Webster, of Duston, Northampton, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Cherry, of Solihull, West

#### Marriage

Mr A. Cotterell and Miss E. Bereus

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 5, at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, of Mr Archie Cotterell, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cotterell, and Miss Emily Berens, elderdaughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Berens. Dom Raphael Appleby

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Henrietta Berens, Charlotte Wyler, Rose Macfarlane, Emily Humphreys, Gwendolen Mitchell, Ivo Macfarlane and Jack Straker. Mr Toby Humphreys was best man.

A reception was held at 94, Piccadilly and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

#### Luncheons

Armourers' and Brasiers'

Mr MJ. Paton, Master of the Armourers' and Brasiers' Compresented the company's pany, presented the company's RAF Prize to the Weapons Engineering Technician Course Number 6 from RAF Costord at a huncheon held yesterday at Armourers' Hall. Air Vice-Marshal P.J. O'Reilly, Director General Technical Services and President of the Ordnance Board, and hunter Technician S. and Junior Technician S Whitmore were the speakers.

Marketors' Company Mr David Thomas, Master of th Marketors' Company, presided and presented the Mais Marketing

award bursaries for 1997 to Mi Steve Kennett and Mr Rakesh Mathur at the spring luncheon held yesterday at Barber-Sur-geons' Hall. Dr Mary Archer and Mr John Petersen, Middle Warden, also spoke. The Masters of the Barbers', Farmers' and Information Technologists' Companies and the Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths' Company were among the guests.

#### Appointments

Mr Thavarajoo Deva Pillay and Mr Alan Fraser Wilkie, QC, to be Circuit Judges, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit. Judge Goldstone has retired from the South Eastern Circuit.

Dr Dame Bridget Ogilvie has been reappointed a Trustee of the Science Museum for a further term of

#### Latest wills

Marigold Geraldine Smith, of

Anthony Schofield, solicitor, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,583,265 net. Anthony James Sparling, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, left estate

EST.

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PERMINA

Thomas William Johnson, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, left es-John Henry Abbott, of Learning.

minster. Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £1,104,059 net. Robert Richard Buller Kitson, of Looe, Cornwall, left estate valued

Nina Louise Rollason, of Frome. Somerset, left estate valued at E1,303,876 net.

She left shares in her residuary estate to the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. RNIB, Cast' Protection League, PDSA and Bath branch of the RSPCA.

#### PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

### PERSONAL COLUMN BMDS: 0171 680 6880 BIGGSM - (Norman) on April 9th 1997 peacefully after a long illness. Funeral Service and cremation will be held at Scholemoor Crematorium, Lidget Green, Radford, on Wednesday April 16th at 11.30 am Friends please meet at the crematorium. No flowers please he proposed to the community of the proposed to the community of the proposed to the present of

Keep strictly to the true gos-pel, avoiding empty and irreligious chatter; those who indulge in it will stray farther and farther into god-less ways. 2 Timothy 2: 15,16

AMBROSIO - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Valerie and Gianluca, a son, Elecardo, a brother for Virginia.

SEADFIELD - On 5th April, to Bridget and David, a daughter, Oriz Czitlin, sister to Finnian.

CAMPSELL-HARRIS - On April 8th 1997, to Vaneses and Jamie, a son, Hugo James, a brother for Alexandra. COPTCOAT - On April 4th at The Portland Scepital, to Alice (nie Forester-Bennett) and Malcolm, a son, Alexander, a brother for

CEMPWELL - On 1st April 1997, to Mouser (née Traiford-Roberts) and Andrew, a son, Oscar Eal Finch, a brother for Ella and Jake.

HOWOLE - On April 7th 1997, to Elizabeth (nee Trucedale) and Mark, a daughter, Rosalind Elizabeth, a sister for Isphel and Giles.

LAZELI - On April 6th 1997, to Belinds (née Beck) and Sebastian, a daughter, Camilla Ratherine, a sister Camilla Katherine, a sister For Freddie, Hamish and

6th April 1997. MYERSON - On March 29th 1997 in Cardiff, to Debble (née Caplan) and Nick, a son, Samuel Philip.

-

BEADLE - On April 2nd 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Darian (née Mould) and John, a son, Ryan Thomas.

BUSHELL - On April 6th 1997 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to Panita and Ian, a son, Oscar. daughter, Amber Lily, siste to Andre Jorge and Chice. DEATHS

ABEL SMITH - Raiph Richard on Monday April 7th at St George's Nursing Home, Cobham, Surrey, aged 93. Husband of Olive (0.1987), father of Wilfrid, Firmoy and Timothy, and a devoted grandfather. Funerul on Wednesday April 16th 2.30pm St Augustine's Church, Queen's Gate, London SW. Family flowers mily. Enquiries to Chelsen Funeral Directors, (0171) 352-0068.

(CRIEW - Edna (Polly) on 9th April 1997 suddenly at home aged 82, widow of John Donald Agnew and most

ior issori and cause.

KENRWAL - On March 24th at
The Fortland Bospital, to
Ashutosh and Bindu, a son,
Yash, a grandson for Shyam
and Rajkumari. beloved mother of Christopher Bullock and grandmother of Jocasta and Charlotte, 'Love conquers aged 87 of Clavering, Very dearly loved by his wife Mary and his many friends.

MILLINER - Cutherine fane (née Ridgem) and Andrew are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Hannah Lilian on Sunday

BIRTHS

METOM - At noon 7th April at The Royal Surrey County Hospital. Amands (née Prangley) and Edwin celebrate three beautiful daughters; Poppy Lucia, Hollie Maria and Lucy Victoria.

CHRISTIAN - Mary Joyce of Lewes, Sussex. Dear sister of Jean Rogers, much loved Aunt of Christine, Colin and Christopher, or April 6th at Brighton. Funeral Service on Priday April 18th at 11 am at St Michael's Church, Lewes followed by cremation at Brighton. No flowers by request, but donations to Christian Aid or Save the Children Fund if desired. Enquiries to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Streat, Lewes, Sussex, (01273) 475557. Tugham - On April 2nd at The Fortland Hospital, to Amanda (ase Kirby) and Neill, a daughtur, Sabrina Hizabeth, a sister for Sophie and George. VERONIQUE - On April 7th as The Portland Hospital, to Carol and Maurice, a

Mary and his many friends. Shipped pescefully away at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Cremation at Paradon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, Essex, 2.30 pm, Tuesday 15th April 1997. No flowers, no mourning. Donations if wished to either ENLI or ESPR.

DAWSON - Nancie on April 5th aged 34. Warden of the Birmingham Settlement 1947-1955. Principal PSW Barls Court CGC. Enquiries to Levertons 0171 485 1969

GREIGISD - Rita on Wednesday April 9th peacefully at The Frincess Crace Hospital aged 88, dearly loved sister of Samuel Welli Jr. 2 very dear friend to many who will be missed greatly. At her request there will be no fimeral survice. Enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, tel: (0171) 352-0008.

Marins - Christopher Money aged 89 years, peacefully, on Monday 7th April in Cornwall. Much loved husband of Ruth, father of Robert and Phosbe and grandfather of Suily, Carpar and Chios. Service at Oxford Cremstopium I pm Monday 14th April. Date of Memorial Service to be announced.

entrepreneur, sinner, impresario, saint Farewell to a man who played the game of life so well.

HOWARD - Peggy, Mum of Mike and Rich, died peacefully on 10th April in St. John's Hospital, Twickenham Much loved by all her family and friends. For funeral arrangements tek Christopher Wickenden on (0181) 569-8373. Flowers welcome. If you prefer please aend a donation to the Priends of St John's Hospital, Twickenham, TWI 3BQ, Feg and Les are together again.

KHUDABUK - (Née Leonard) Deborah Jame on 8th April aged 45 peccafully at hone after a brave and dignified battle with cancer. Loved by so many and an example to all funeral 3 pm Wednesday 16th April Downs Crematorium, Erighton. No cut flowers, please-Enquiries Co-op Funeral Services, (01273) 607276.

LAME - Cm 8th April peacefully at St Michaels Hospice. Besingstoke, Leonard Victor Lame aged 86 years of Four Marks, formarly of Oxford Road, Reading. Femeral at The Fark Crematorium, Aldershot, on Wednesday 16th April at 11.30 ass. Family flowers only but in his memory donations to Cancer Research of Kemp & Stevens, 93 High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 ILG.

LONG - Eirene Marion, aged 90 years, died peacefully at Ciliton Rouse, Bary on Apell 10th. Founerly of Aidington, Chafyn Grove School and Broadstone. Much loved by all the family and by her many friends, Founerl at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Bury, (near Arundel) on Monday April 21st at 12 noon followed by a private cremation. Short service with Burial of Ashes at the Church of St John the Rapelst, Broadstone, Dorset will take place at 2.90 pm on Friday April 25th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to St John's Church, Broadstone or The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel may be sent to H.D. Tribe Ltd., 21 West Street, Storrington, West Susser, RH2O 4DZ. Tel: (01903) 742585.

LYONS - Desmond Dunne died April 8th aged 71, suddenly but peacefully at home. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Funeral on Saturday April 12th at 2 pm at Holy Saviour Church, Eriestoke, Wilts. Enquiries and flowers to Arthur W Mays, 52 Warminster Road, Westbury, Wilts.

MASON - Thmothy, Musician, died in St Bartholomew's Hospital on 5th April 1997. Dearly beloved husband of Jan (née Schlapp), father of Nathaniel and Lucy and brother of Nicholas and Bemedict.

MATTHEW - On 7th April 1997, Henry Johnston Scott, FRCP. ED. aged 83 years, beloved husband of Jane, loved father of Colin, Duncan and Esy, and a much loved grandfather and stepfather. Funeral private.

SCHOMBERG - Geoffrey St George on April 8th peacefully in hospital, beloved husband of Anna and father of Laura and Julia Puneral Seyfee at Alli Saints Church, Lisnelli, on Tuesday April 15th at 12 noon. All enquiries to (01554) 772829.

SIMMONS - (Née Enwire) on April 9th peacefully at Exeter, aged 94. While of the late Sir Pency Simmons. Private funeral service at St Ives, Comwall. No flowers or letters please. Donations if desired to the RNLL. All enquiries to Mitchell Funeral Services, tak (01392) 272682.

MOEL - Vivien, peacefully in Cheltenham General Hospital, on 9th April 1997, In her 90th year. A much loved aunt and friand. All enquiries please to Selim Smith & Co. Tel: (01242) 5255282.

SISSONS - June Pamela, pescefully at home on 6th April 1997. Much loved widow of Noel Hugh Sissons. Funeral Service was on 10th April in Albufelra, laterment, joining Noel in the English Cametery, Lisbon, on 11th April.

SIGLTON - On 8th April 1997
at Bramley House
Residential Home, Westcott,
Donothy aged 89 years, wife
of the late Alax, much loved
mother of john and jennifer
and grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funeral
Service at 8t Martin's
Church, Dorking, on
Thunday 17th April at 12
noon.

SKIMMER - Passed pencefully away at home on 9th April 1997 Joan widow of 1m, loving mother of Michael and Robert and grandmother of Wilbiam Alsuradan and John. Funeral Service at 5t Margaret's, Mapleduham at 10 am 16th April 1997, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations may be sent to the Sus Ryder Home, Nettlebed, Oxon if desired. THANKSGIVING

STEYN - Miriam, beloved sister of Anna, after a long filners. Cremation private. No flowers. Donarlons to the Musicins Benseolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London WIP

STORART - Audrew, formerly of Zimbahwe, in Oxford on April 8th aged 32 years after a counageous battle against overwhelming odds. Gorgeous hashand and precious friend of Susannah, much loved you of Gill and David and houther of Margie, Mike and Kate. Private funeral followed by Mike and Kate. Private funeral followed by Memorial Service at the Parish Caurch of St Mary-le-More, Wallington at 2.45pm Friday April 18th. No flowers please but donations, if wished, to Sobell House, Churchill House, Churchill Service will also be held in Zimbabwe at a jaste date.

SYER - Margaret Watson, March 31st, 1997. Late of Double Bay, Beloved wife of Colonel Edmund James Sper Royal Pusiliers and Indian army (DCD). Bughter of Henry Watson Williams of Clifton, Gloucester, England and Marc Onth DCD elses.

WATIS - On 9th April 1997, john, peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Faith

Beloved husband of Faith and formerly of the late Lris. Much loved father of Peters, Jenny and Rigel. Stepfather of Lis, loving gamediather of Mark, Caroline, Fiona, Nicola, Caristopher, Thomas and Guy and stepgrandfather of Clare, Georgina and Hishard Loved and remembered by all who knew him. Funeral Service will be held at All Saints Church, Rorth Cerney, on Saturday 19th April 230 pm. Baquirles to Packer & Slade Funeral Birectors, City Rank, Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 11.G. (01285) 663525.

JESSEL - A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dame Penelope Jessel will be held at St. Giles' Church, Oxford on Saturday May 10 at 2.30 pm. For further details please contact 00 331 40 82 98 92.

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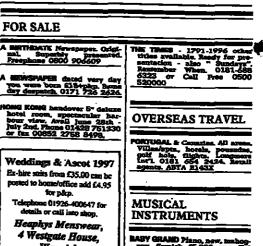
Allensmore, Hereford, left estate Alleristude, reference, left estate valued at £2,341,055 net.
She left the National Trust her lands at Perryhill Belmont, Herdord and Worcester, and 13,35 acres known as Ruckhall Wood. She also left shares in her residuary estate to the British Diabetic Association and the PDSA.

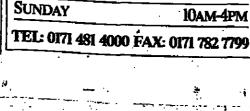
valued at £1,513,299 net. Rosamond Violet Estelle Pankhurst, of Streatley, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,048,495 net. Thomas Laity Stoate, of Almondsbury, Bristol, Avon, left estate valued at £1,415,057 net. He left to the Parish Council of Almondsbury the option to purchase the Scop field.

tate valued at £1,014,238 net. ton Spa, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,204,433 net. Arthur Ashley Morgan, company director, of Churchill, Kidder-

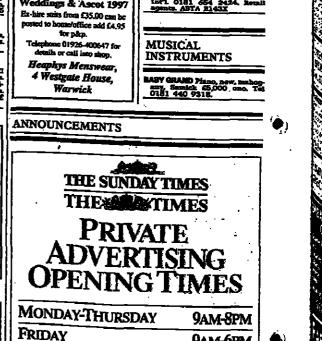
at El.906,250 net.
He left £3,000 to Morval PCC; £2,000 to the Macmillan Nursing Service and £1,000 to 5t Mamarch's Church, Lanrath, Looe.

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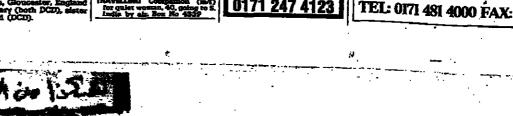


SATURDAY



9am-6pm

9AM-4PM



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#### **OBITUARIES**

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Helene Hanff, writer, died in New York on April 9 aged 80. She was born on April 15, 1916.

elene Hanff made her name with one book, 84 Charing Cross Road (1971). writers have sailed to fame in so slender a craft. Its 96 pages were lavishly spaced. Strictly speaking half the book was not hers. But she was its only begetter. Her spirit gave it life. She changed the spirit of

everyone else concerned. Without her exuberance and generosity nothing would have been heard of this correspondence between an American reader and writer of relevision scripts and a secondhand London bookshop. She ended by being leted, and seeing her long-distance love affair with Marks & Co enacted on the West End stage, then on television and on film. The film version, especially, in which Hanff and her bookselling correspondent were played by Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins, ensured that both she and the

bookshop became household "i tell you," Hanff later wrote, "life is extraordinary. A few years ago I couldn't write anything or sell anything. I'd had my best chance and done my best and failed. And how was I to know the miracle waiting to happen around the corner in late middle age? Eighty-four Charing Cross Road was no bestseller, you understand, it didn't make me rich or famous. It just got me hundreds of letters and phonecalls from people I never knew existed; it got me wonderful reviews: it restored a self-confidence and self-esteem I'd lost somewhere along the way, God knows how many

years ago. It brought me to England. it changed my life." Helene Hanff was born in Philadelphia. Her father was a

HELENE HANFF



a song and dance man. From early years she wanted to be a writer. Her formal education was minimal. But her local public library had Quiller-Couch's essays. They formed her taste and inspired what became a passion for English

literature. She also learnt Latin. An itinerant, rather Bohemian life, which included a job on a diesel engine and being secretary to a dance band leader, landed her in New York at the age of 20. She won a playwriting contest. None of her thirty or so efforts was staged. She did better with television scripts, and wrote a series of eight for US Army training films. She graduated to Harpers and The New

An advertisement by Marks & Co. the Charing Cross Road booksellers, in the Saturday ber 1949, prompted her to send them a list of books she was ready to buy "for no more than \$5.00 each. Thus began a twenty-year romance. Yet she never saw the shop until it had finally been closed and scheduled for demolition. By then she had made sure its name

Marks & Co (the Co stood for Cohen. Marks's partner) was not quite the leisurely Dickensian concern Hanff had imagined. The writer Leo Marks, son of the proprietor, recalled the family business as an altogether more cut-throat affair. "My father never read a

their value." Antiquarian bookselling in postwar London was characterised by vicious rivalry, Leo Marks explained. Sharp practice was rife. The fourth floor

would linger as well as her

book he sold, but he knew

because it had a plate missing, they'd find a similar plate, shove it in, and sell it as a perfect copy. It was a very specialised part of the business." Hanff had written about a shop that never existed, and one that Marks Senior would not have wanted to run if it had. None of which was to

Hanff's long corres-pondence with Frank Doel, instance, housed a secret department known as "Spare Parts" "If a book came in the manager of the shop, began conventionally enough. "Dear Madam," wrote Doel, "we have received your letter of October 5th." "I hope madam' doesn't mean over there what it means over here," Hanff replied. She kept up the caustic wisecracks as the relationship developed, abandoning the niceties for directness stop her and Leo Marks from and capital letters: "Frankie.

Helene Hanff photographed outside 84 Charing Cross Road in 1987, when the site was occupied by a record shop

READING MATTER." She never met Doel, who died before she made it to London. Like the shop where he worked, he was not quite as she had imagined. "If I had met Frank," she later said, "I probably wouldn't have written the book. Friends of mine who visited the bookshop and met him said I wouldn't have had anything in common with him. He was interested in the

monetary value of books.

while I bought them for the

era through which many of them had just lived; its comedy

Her own book was given a fair wind when some of it was published in Reader's Digest. This alerted English book lovers to something new, amusing, engaging and poignant. At the same time, with its talk of powdered egg and nylon stockings, it recalled an

selling books. An admirer sent

circle of English friends when she became a regular broadcaster for the BBC in later years. Between 1978 and 1984, she entertained listeners to Radio 4's Woman's Hour with a quirky, gently humorous view of New York life as seen from her one-room apartment. A collection of those monthly five-minute talks was published in 1992 as Letter from

that here was an impecunious.

rollicking American woman who wanted to read Hazlitt.

Catullus, Donne, Pepys, Lan-

dor and the Vulgate. When she

at last managed to come to London in the wake of her

book she found herself

Her love affair was with

London also. She described

her enthusiastic welcome and adventures as a visitor in The

Duchess of Bloomsbury Street (1976). That book, she later

thought "sounded like a par-

ody of every gushing tourist".

but it, too, was warmly received. Six years later, in Apple of My Eye, she portrayed New York. Once again

there was gusto; but this time

It would be wrong nonethe-

less to describe Helene Hanff

as a "one book author". Her

triumph was one not of litera-

ture but of character. This

gained her an even wider

no magic.

New York. To the end Hanff clung to her Anglophilia, though she found it severely tested on some of her visits to London. 'It has become so xenophobic," she told one interviewer. 'It's startling that a city so old and so sophisticated should be so afraid of outsiders." The site at 84 Charing Cross Road fell victim to property developers, though its fame was such that one of its later occupants, Covent Garden Records, was able to do a profitable sideline

Hanff the old shop sign. Helene Hanff never marand eventual tragedy won their hearts. So did the fact ried. "I always craved to be

home alone," she said.

#### shirt salesman who had been Review of Literature in Octoof 84 Charing Cross Road, for becoming the best of friends. GEOFFREY KNIGHT

Geoffrey Knight, CBE, executive manager of the Anglo-French Concorde team. died on March 31

aged 76. He was born on January 25, 1921. IN HIS book Concorde - The Story, bublished in 197 when British Airways and Air France launched the world's first supersonic commercial air services, Geoffrey Knight provided a forthright, laconic and revealing account of the complexities of the task which led to the creation of this remarkable aircraft. As executive manager of the Anglo-French team he exercised immense patience, commercial skill and acumen, as well as an urbane good humour. which was invaluable in the minefield of technical (and

diplomatic) problems which were inherent in the project. It was largely thanks to him. too, that the Bristol Britannia and the BAC One Eleven airliners achieved so many

years of successful operation.

shire, Geoffrey Egerton

Born in Fareham. Hamp-

and the second of



Knight was educated at Brighton College before joining the Royal Marines in 1939. He served in home. Mediterranean and Far East waters throughout the war — including the D-Day landings in

Normandy. He then read for the Bar before joining the aircraft division of Bristol in When Bristol Aircraft was

formed, two years later, he

became its commercial direc-

tor, primarily concerned with the sales and delivery of the four-engined Britannia to BOAC, to the RAF and to the export market. His experience with prospective orders for this advanced turbo-prop airliner in the United States and South America stood him in good stead in later negotiations. notably for the BAC One

Knight went on to become commercial manager of the newly formed British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) at Brooklands, Weybridge, in 1960. From 1964 he was a board member and director of the corporation's civil aircraft sales. From 1969 to 1971 he was chairman of BAC's Filton. Bristol, division and a director

of BAC (Australia) and BAC (USA). He was closely involved with the development of the Vickers/BAC VC-10 longrange transport (which made its first flight on June 29, 1962). for BOAC and the RAF and played a similar role with the BAC One Eleven regional jet.

In 1963 he negotiated a major

dollar-earning contract with American Airlines in the USA for the supply of 31 One Elevens for domestic air ser-

vices in the United States. At the same time, he was leading the Anglo-French executive team on Concorde — a task which involved him in the most detailed and delicate negotiations with representatives - technical and political - of both governments. His

skill and tact were recognised by his appointment as CBE in When British Aerospace was formed in 1976 Knight joined the Board of Guinness Pear and set up its successful aviation division. He became chairman of its Fenchurch Insurance Group in 1980, a non executive board member of Trafalgar House in 1983, and chairman of Guinness

Peat in 1989. In a more leisurely field, he was chairman of Boodles and a member of White's and the Turf clubs. Geoffrey Knight married Evelyn Dollar Bugle in 1947.

She survives him with their

two daughters.

Norman Pirie, virologist and nutritionist, died on March 29 aged 89. He

it's going to be a long cold

was born on July I, 1907. A SCIENTIST of modest demeanour and strong social conscience, Norman Pirie never stopped working. Long after his official retirement from Rothamsted Experimental Station he retained a room

there, and was busy until the day before he died. Born in Torrance, in Stirlingshire, Norman Wingate Pirie - invariably known as Bill — was the son of the portrait painter Sir George Pirie. He was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and established him-

self as a biochemist and virologist in the 1930s. His most striking discovery. made with Frederick Bawden. was to show that the genetic material of viruses is ribonucleic acid (RNA). In 1935 the American biochemist Wendell Stanley had grown crystals of tobacco mosaic virus, believing that they consisted entirely of protein. Pirie was unconvinced, and with Bawden established that the purified virus contained phosphorus. Since no amino acid contains phosphorus, and proteins consist exclusively of amino acids, it was clear that something else was present. Together they concluded that it was RNA, at a time when the nucleic acids had yet to be-

come the central players in the genetic revolution. Pirie might easily have gone on to become one of the leaders of the unfolding science of molecular biology. Stanley won a share in the 1946 Nobel Prize for his discovery, and Pirie might have done the same, but by then he had moved in an entirely different direction. Always left-wing in politics, he be-lieved that the justification for

## NORMAN PIRIE

research was the improvement of the conditions of life. In 1939 he suggested that the proteins extracted from the eaves of plants could be used to bolster the diet, and improve the lot of the poor. Then,

> wasted, unless they are used to feed animals. On the outbreak of war he was asked by the Government to devise simple machines to extract the proteins and make them palatable. In 1940 he joined Bawden at Rothamsted, and the leaf protein project became the central focus of his research. By the 1960s he was aiming his machines at the Third World, where a food crisis was believed to be developing. In the event, con-ventional food production proved well able to keep up

with growing populations, and Pirie's leaf protein never became established, but it was

Pirie enlisted chefs and local

not for lack of effort.

turn his chunks of leaf protein into tasty dishes. Apple, onion and mustard-leaf protein pie, vegetable hot-pot with wheat leaf protein, and lentil soup with barley leaf protein were as remains the case today, the among the dishes they dreamt vast bulk of such proteins are up. The first week, he admitted dryly, cooks tended to be "suicidal, homicidal, tearful or mutinous" but in the second they all became reconciled to the unfamiliar material. Ravi-

oli and haggis were among the improbable results of their efforts. Machines for extracting leaf protein were exported to India, Uganda, and New Guinea. But Pirie was not the only pioneer to find that dietary habits die hard. Only the pressure of hunger could have persuaded millions to start eating leaves, however appetisingly presented, and the Green Revolution had anyway

made it unnecessary. Its time,

though, may still come - if

Malthusian prophecies even-

Norman Pirie (right) offers visitors a sample of his leaf protein biscuits

tually prove to be true. In 1971 Pirie won the Royal Harpenden housewives to Society's Copley Medal, and in 1976 the first Rank-Hovis award for nutrition. In retirement an annuity resulting from this award provided him with a personal laboratory at work. There remained a feeling, however, that a more conventional career path might have brought greater rewards, even judged by

Pirie's socialist standards. With his wife Antoinette, a fellow scientist who became an ophthalmologist, Pirie was heavily involved with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from its beginnings. He chaired the scientific committee of CND for several years, and contributed to books on the threat of nuclear weapons. He also wrote books

on more general themes such as the origins of life and population control.

His wife died in 1991. His

son and daughter survive him.

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BRITISH INSTITUTION. A large historical painting, by that veteran professor of the arts, Mr. West, is now placed in the Gallery of that meritorious establishment the British Institution, in Pall Mall. The subject of the piece is "Christ, healing the sick". The scene is laid in a Colonnade of the Temple. The Saviour appears towards the left, accompanied by St. John, St. Peter, and others of his disciples. There are three distinct groups of sufferers, and their friends and attendants; and the back-ground has, to the right, a view of a distant altar, and to the left, various speciators, with a remote perspective of part of the sacred edifice. The chief group in the centre consists of a man in advanced years, and in the last stage of wasting illness, carried in cloths, pallid and almost lifeless, by two slaves, and attended by sympathising friends. To the left, is the affecting appearance friends. To the left, is the affecting appearance of a young woman, born blind; a mother, with her sick and dying infant: a man in hopeless imbedility of mind, and other lamentable objects. In the right group, the chief object is a voman, who seems afflicted past remedy, supported by two soldiers; her son, advanced before her, with his arms out-stretched, as if to call the quickest attention of the Saviour of mankind to the critical situation of his

distressed mother. The design is of that

#### ON THIS DAY

#### April 11, 1817

American-born Benjamin West settled in American-porn Benjamin west settled in London, enjoyed royal patronage, and 30 years later, in 1792, became President of the Royal Academy. Chamber's Biographical Dictionary takes a more restrained view of his allent. "His drawing is correct and his composition skilful, though the colouring is monotonous."

description, which only genius and long experience can be expected to produce. The grouping is peculiarly excellent. In the expression of character the artist has been eminently successful. The principal figures possess the highest merit. Exhausted nature, departing age, and premature mortality, are depicted with transcendant talents. The person of the Saviour is represented with most exquisite beauty. He wears a robe of celestial blue over a red tunic. The face is the linest that can be imagined; beaming with heaventy grace. There is an excellent idea of the painter's, to give to the expression of the

Though all the others in the composition have their eyes fixed on their holy benefactor, or on the objects of his goodness, his eyes are directed to no particular person or object. Thus, the character of his benevolence and beneficence to all, is expressed with the most happy propriety, and the most impressive and edifying effect. The colouring is of that sober, well-mixed kind, which, while it loses nothing from a want of variety, offends in no instance by gaudiness or obsrusive glare; but preserves a chaste, yet warm, rich, and dignified effe The ceiling-lights have been partially dark-ened — the room lined with green and purple drapery, placed above the frame of the picture, to put it into the best point of view. picture, to put it into the best point of view. This notice we gladly take of so noble a production of British art, in which such genius, skill and knowledge have been combined to enrich the canvas with this representation of human misery in many o its most afflicting forms, waiting the speedy relief of Divine Mercy. Mr. West has already done himself sufficient honour by many great works. Perhaps, though we do not pledge ourselves to this, the present is his masterpiece, and seems to have brought forth most appropriately, the full harvest of his talents in the rich autumn of his professional life.

countenance the character of the "divine"

#### **NEWS**

#### Tories flout party line on EMU

■ Dozens of Tory candidates, including at least one minister. have flouted the Government's wait-and-see policy on a single currency in their constituency election manifestos.

Many are taking advantage of a millionaire businessman's offer of financial support to any candidate who opposes a single currency. It is thought that about 150 Tories will receive donations from Paul Sykes. 53, who said: " It is going to cost me around £500,000. But it's worth it"..... Pages 1, 11-17, 12, 20, 21

#### Times challenge to TV debate

The Times is issuing a new challenge to John Major and Tony Blair to take part in a televised general election debate. The Editor has written to both the leaders' camps inviting them to a debate hosted by the newspaper and open to the television companies in London on Sunday April 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Pages 1, 21

#### EU envoys recalled

The EU recalled all its ambassadors in Tebran, hours after a Berlin court verdict implicated Tranian Government officials in the murder in a café of Kurdish .. Pages 1, 8, 21

#### Labour blocks school

A Roman Catholic independent girls' school hoping to join the state system failed to win approval from David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, to become grant-maintained ... ...Page 2

#### Colonel threatened

The former British Army colonel whose team of 65 mercenaries was hired by the Papua New Guinea Government told of death threats from an element of the country's defence force .... Page 4

#### Deer hunting ban

The National Trust banned deer hunting on its land in a move that is certain to intensify demands for abolishing all hunting with dogs. including fox hunting ..... Page 4

#### Poison from the pew

A vicar blamed his heart complaint on a mystery woman who has mounted a three-year hate letter campaign against him from

#### Flying the flag

A stained Union Jack, frayed by fierce Antarctic winds, was sold for £20,500 at Christie's. It was taken by Sir Ernest Shackleton on his 1907-1909 expedition .. Page 6

#### Carey warning

The Archbishop of Canterbury told a conference there was a risk of schools "easing off" on moral and spiritual education to concentrate on improving their positions in league tables...

#### Pensioners protest

Norwich Union decided that the word pensioner was outdated, but its proposal to refer to SWELS — seniors with energetic lifestyles - has met derision from senior citizens ...

#### lceberas in space The strongest evidence yet that

Jupiter's moon Europa may contain life has come from images taken by the Galileo spacecraft which show white areas and iceberg-like structures ......Page 7

#### Israeli threat The Israeli Defence Minister said

Israel would have no difficulty retaking the eight West Bank towns under Palestinian control since the 1993 deal .... Pages 8. 21 Hillary implicated Hillary Clinton is thought to have

helped Webster Hubbell, the

#### President's former friend alleged to have had hush money for his silence over Whitewater .. Page 9

Ultimatum for Mobotu The rebel leader Laurent Kabila ordered a pause in his advance across Zaire and gave President Mobutu Sese Seko three days to step down ... ... Page 10

#### Air patrol to spot illegal sprinklers

As temperatures in Britain reached the 70s the prospect of the year's first hosepipe bans emerged. After the driest two years for more than two centuries Essex and Suffolk Water has consulted the Government about introducing bans. Mid Kent Water is to use a spotter plane to detect illegally filled

#### BUSINESS

initiative: Labour will today set out new plans to revitalise the private finance initiative in the first concrete indication of closer public and private partnership under a Labour government.... .. Page 25

Utilities: Shares in utilities rose as City dealers pounced on apparent indecision by Labour over how to levy windfall taxes ... ...Page 25

Regional gloom: House prices in many parts of Britain fell in the first quarter of this year, a Halifax ....Page 25 survey shows ...

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 20.9 points to close at 4313.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.4 to 99.3 after a fall from \$1.6228 to \$1.6240 and from DM2.7909 to DM2.7873 ... Page 28

EBRD: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development faces a deepening succession crisis ahead of its annual meeting of shareholders in London this .. Page 26 weekend.

#### 

Football: Manchester United are planning an appeal to the FA after the Premier League dismissed their request to ease fixture congestion by extending the season ... Page 48

Golf: Cold temperatures and swirling breezes, coupled with firm and fast greens, made the going difficult in the first round of the Mas-.. Page 48 ters in Augusta ...

Motor racing: British American Tobacco is behind moves to establish a Formula One team that could make its debut next year, with Jacques Villeneuve joining in ... Page 43

Racing: Stewards will exchange bowler hats for riding helmets at Wolverhampton when they compete in a special race as part of the course's first Sunday fixture on



Kees Van Dongen's Femme au Grand Chapeau, from the collection of Charles Tabachnick, to be sold by Sotheby's

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

#### men's summer fashions **E** CAR 97

■ MAGAZINE Matt Le Blanc of Friends models for a 32-page special on

The heavyweight that America's Don King gave to England's

#### ARTS

Birth of the blue: Picasso's early works in a stunning exhibition in Washington DC reveal his progression from imitation to the Blue Period, to the Rose .... ....Page 33

Here comes Boz. His Silk Degrees album sold five million copies in the States alone in the Seventies; then Boz Scaggs went into voluntary exile for 20 years. Now he's

No hurry: Despite the obvious care lavished on the new Depeche Mode album, there is a weary feel to it, says David Sinclair ...... Page 35

Fully Mark's: For £240 you can buy the facsimile edition of the complete works of Mark Twain, and marvel anew at his "renegade

#### FEATURES 2

73 not out: Valerie Grove talks to Ida Staples, who became University Challenge's oldest competitor when she appeared on the quiz at the age of 73 ... Committed: When I was 18, the greatest crime was to be uncool;

now that I am a mother, the greatest crime is not to pull one's weight, to allow others to be active. Rachel Morris on why she joined a com-

McManners: They are being called the McManners Generation, Americans prepared to pay to be taught etiquette. Quentin Letts reports on Gloria Petersen, the guru whose seminars are designed to charm a nation

#### EDUCATION

Child choice: In an age of calls for traditional values, Summerhill School is sticking to the liberal ideas it pioneered at its foundation more than 70 years ago .... Page 38 Booked out: Susan Elkin bemoans schools that seem to think children can benefit from studying a Disney film version of classics such as The Jungle Book rather than Kipling's

actual writings...

THE PAPERS Crime rates are falling sharply in New York City, thanks in large part to better policing, but this fine record is stained by a continuing fear of police brutality in black and Hispanic neighbourhoods. New York police officers have shot and killed more than 100 civilians over the past five years, and while those numbers are far below the total of fatal shootings in the early 1970s, the vast majority of the shootings were of African-Americans and

Preview: A stand-up routine gets its television premiere. Eddie Izzard - Unrepeatable (Channel 4, 10.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond thinks that Mrs Merton is not the woman she was ...... Pages 46, 47

#### The Times challenge

There is a gap at the centre of this election season which must be filled. We are today inviting John Major and Tony Blair to fill that gap and accept this Times challenge to face each other in public and televised debate....... Page 21

#### A German lesson

Germany yesterday learnt, to its cost, that appeasing extremism does not pay. Perhaps all Europe will now understand that these who bomb and kill are not the kind of people who should be engaged in any dialogue ....

#### MATTHEW PARRIS

Now the caballists simply worship the whip. Within the party and in their dealings with the press, they have become an anti-intellectual force, trying to close off or close down all questioning. Convinced that they are the architects of Mr Blair's ascendency, they have convinced him that they must be the guardians of it...

TESSA BLACKSTONE There should be a national network of local centres, in libraries, schools and high street outlets, offering equipment, learning packages, tutoring and guidance. This would allow the Government to take a

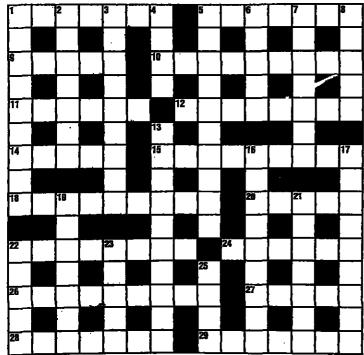
#### workforce .. PETER RIDDELL

Labour has only itself to blame for the wobbles in its campaign and the Tory pick-up in yesterday's MORI poll in The Times. The root cause is not events over the past ten days but the style of policymaking over the past three years ... Page 12

Helene Hanff, author of 84. Char. ing Cross Road; Norman Piric, scientist and nutritionist: Geoffrey Knight, executive manager. Anglo-French Concorde team .... Page 23

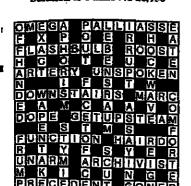
Small businesses and Labour, recycling; Hong Kong; field sports; 

#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,451



ACROSS

- 1 Grease covering some cord (7).
- 5 Insert one mount in map? On the contrary (7)-
- 9 American invested in basic compass (5).
- 10 Sublime part of prison accom-
- modating bestial inmates (9).
- 11 One who examines top of bed (6). 12 Way to encourage fish (8).
- 14. Attack in Durham town centre (5). 15 What gunner uses to carry the high ground (9). 18 Vigorous Tory, oddly, has charm
- 20 Leading performer has brought
- in one instrument (5). 22 Irascible, with passion left over in
- sweet embrace (8). 24 Said to find buyer for fish (6).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,450



came into being (9). 27 Superior finds Jack a pest (5).

- 28 Drink getting railmen drunk (7). 29 Workplace touched when monarch visits (7).
- I Leaves when it's time to retire (6,3). 2 People upset over eastern form of
- address to female deity (7). 3 Genuine article, in form of a tunic
- 4 Bob or Donald? (4).
- 5 Ignorant? I'll say! (More than once) (10).
- Hard question raised concerning bribe (5). 7 I'd seen a different flavouring (7).
- 8 Some vital ones in undealt cards 13 Sort of table not often seen (10).
- 16 King English sovereign beginning to trust following (9). 17 In all seriousness, get home in
- good time to go out (9). 19 Schoolboy European head of school expelled (7).
- 21 This will protect extremity of limb - the limb that's broken (7).
- 22 The best engineers employed to stop up river (5).
- 23 A consumer such as Jonathan (5). 25 Bound to have circuit judge's
- Times Two Crossword, page 48

conclusion accepted (4).

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

☐ General: England and Wales will start dry and sunny, but cloud and ☐ Channel Isles, SW England: dry rain will soon spread south across northern areas. The band of

cloud and ever decreasing amounts of light rain will tollow to southern areas in the afternoon. At the same time the North should become brighter, perhaps with the odd Southern Scotland and Northern lreland will be mostly cloudy with some patchy rain at first but brighter weather with a few showers will follow

from the North by afternoon. ☐ London, SE England, Cent S England, S Wales: dry with sunny spells. Becoming rather cloudy later,

with perhaps some light rain. Wind light to moderate north to northwest. Narm. Max 17C (63F).

☐ E Angila, Midlands, E England, N Wales, NW England, Cent N England: dry, bright start becoming mostly cloudy with some patchy light rain. Turning brighter later. Wind moderate to tresh north to northwest.

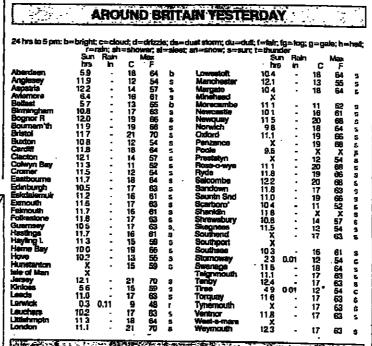
Fresher, Max 14C (57F)

and mostly sunny, more cloudy in evening. Wind north to northwest, mainly moderate. Warm. Max 18C ☐ Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyli, N Ireland: mostly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle at first.

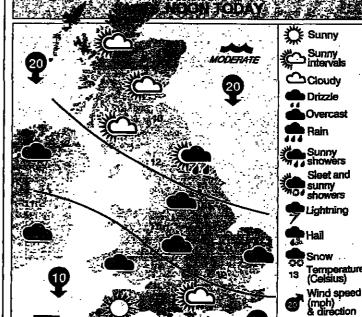
Becoming brighter later and mostly dry. Wind moderate locally fresh north to northwest. Max 13C (55F). ☐ Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, N Scotland: surny spells and scattered light showers. Wind north to northwest mostly fresh. Max

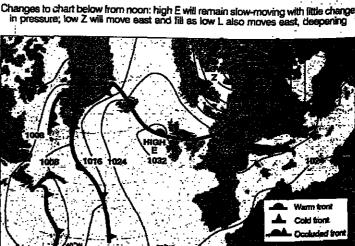
☐ Orkney, Shetland: sunny spells and showers, some heavy and perhaps, wintry. Wind north to northwest strong to gale. Max 8C (46F).

☐ Outlook for weekend: mostly dry with bright or sunry spells, apart from far north.



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pair ple previta strategic approach to the long-term skill and knowledge needs of the .Page 21

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Sleet and

Wind speed

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

INSIDE **SECTION** 

TODAY

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#### **ECONOMICS**

Anatole Kaletsky on the truth about taxes **PAGE 29** 



#### **EDUCATION**

The moral battle for the next generation **PAGES 37, 39** 



#### **SPORT**

Players caught cold by severity of Augusta's greens **PAGES 40-48** 

**TELEVISION** AND **RADIO PAGES** 46, 47

**BUSINESS** TODAY

STOCK MARKET

4313,2 (+20.9)

FRIDAY APRIL 11 1997

## Utilities shares boosted by modest windfall tax hopes

AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY SHARES in utilities rose yesterday on expectations that Labour's windfall tax will be more modest than at first feared in the City. The rises were accompanied by a call from the main telecommunications unions for Labour to reduce the impact of windfall tax on British Telecom.

on the windfall tax comes ahead of today's inclusion of the tax as a key element of Labour's election manifesto for business

Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union and the Society of Telecom Executives, however, stopped short of urging Labour to refrain from applying the windfall tax to BT at all.

In a policy statement on the future of UK telecommunications, the two

unions said they understood that "for legal and political reasons" it might not be possible for a future Labour government to exclude BT from the windfall tax, which Labour intends to use to fund programmes

to help the unemployed. The unions said that Labour should take into account the fact that BT had been well regulated, and though profitable, its profits had not produced the kind of public outcry that profits of gas and electricity had generated.

The unions pointed out that BT, which was privatised in 1984 — long before the other utility firms — had already paid £8 billion to the Treasury in corporation tax, that its prices had been reviewed by its regulator Oftel four times so far, and that, unlike some other domestic utilities, it faces extensive compe-tition both within the United

Kingdom and outside its borders. But as the election row over windfall tax continued, with John Major claiming that falling unemployment figures are making it irrelevant, strong gains were made on the stock market. United Utilities, the multiutility that is likely to attract a double blow because it has a water and electricity business, rose 262p to 670p. Similarly Hyder, another combined utility, increased 13p to

831 p. Of the water companies, Anglian rose llp to 649 p; Severn Trent increased 172p to 7362p and Yorkshire's price was lifted 132p to

The power generators also benefitted with PowerGen up 22p to 633p and National Power up 12½p to 5Z/p. BT gained 9p to 442½p and Railtrack rose 10p to 4292 p.

Markets, page 28

## The call by the unions to go easy Blair pledge to revitalise PFI goals

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

LABOUR will set out new plans today to revitalise the Private Finance Initiative, in the first concrete indication of a closer public-private

parmership in government. The move — the first detailing of Labour's plans since the shift on privatisation signalled this week by Tony Blair - will come in Labour's election manifesto for business being

launched in the City today. Mr Blair will proclaim Equipping Britain for the Future as the culmination of Labour's extensive consultation with business — both

here and abroad - in preparation for government. Labour's 12-point plan for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) will form one of the five key pledges Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will make to busi-

ness leaders today. These cov-

1 T . 12 .

er a commitment to low inflation and stable macroeconomic policy; to public-private parmerships, including a revitalised PFI; to a betterskilled workforce; to the involvement of small business; and to full backing for

business in Europe. Today's business manifesto will say: "The old argument as to whether public ownership was always best or whether privatisation was the only

answer is behind us." The manifesto, a copy of which has been seen by The Times, will say: "The truth is there are some things that the private sector does best and others where the public sector is appropriate. And in many more cases a combination of both public and private sector

is necessary." The manifesto emphasises Labour's "practical approach"

and the importance of partnerships to bring real economic benefits to all involved. "We recognise the value that the private sector can so often bring to projects where there is scope to apply its expertise, disciplines and economies of

scale," it says. Labour will announce that if elected it will establish a new public-private sector taskforce within the Treasury, reporting to a minister with direct

responsibility for the issue. Mr Blair will announce a 12point plan for partnership. which will include a pledge that all current PFI deals already signed or accepted will proceed "without delay" new legislation if necessary to ensure public bodies have the powers to enter into PFI contracts; early and rigorous appraisal of PFI bids so that bidders do not waste resources on projects unlikely to work: a timetable, where possible, on each project to give bidders a clear idea of decisions; and new guidance on risk transfer

and on tendering for partnership projects. Other pledges will include commitments on strengthen-ing the Private Finance Panel, on including small firms, and

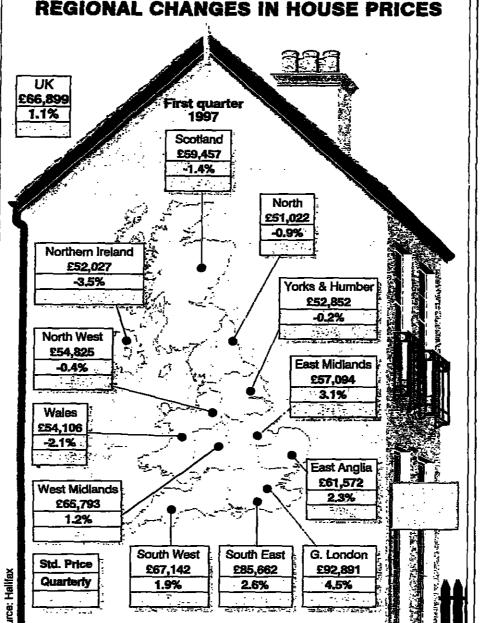
on firm control of public sector revenue commitments. Many of the moves are in line with changes to the PFI urged by industry leaders. The Major Contractors' Group, representing big con-struction firms — some of which have been key donors to the Conservative Party — will welcome the 12-point plan as proposals that "will do much to smooth the path of public-

private partnership". The business manifesto will also commit Labour to reviewing in government the option of extending capital allowances to bring forward new

investment. The manifesto will be endorsed by key business lead-ers attending the launch at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, including Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada. Mr Robinson gave support to Labour last night in the party's first election broadcast. together with Anita Roddick. chief executive of Body Shop International, and Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Conran Holdings and founder of the

Habitat chain. ☐ In a letter to The Times today 84 small business leaders endorse Labour, insisting that small firms can look forward with confidence to a profitable future under a Labour government.

PFI outlook, page 29 our house price forecast from



#### **NatWest** may offer gas to customers

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY NDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than six million customers of NatWest may be offered gas and electricity by

steet bank. Eastern, part of The Energy Group that was demerged from Hanson, will initially market energy to bank employees and their relatives in areas of southern England where gas is sold competitively. Through staff newsletters

ment for each customer recruited. If the trials are successful they may be extended to NatWest customers as competition in the gas market goes nationwide. The same company would also offer to supply electricity once a com-

to our employees. What hap-pens next is very much on the

drawing board.

## US RATE E LONDON MONEY STERLING New York

FTSE 100

Eastern Group, which is forg-ing an alliance with the high

Eastern is offering gas tariffs and NatWest receives pay-

petitive market is launched.

Jim Whelan, director of Eastern's power and energy trading business, said: "We hope to expand to the customer base if the trials work." Mr Whelan said Eastern had rejected several potential joint ventures in favour of NatWest. NatWest said: "There is a financial benefit for us in this arrangement and it is a benefit

## 5551 DOLLAR Tokyo close Yen 126,13 NORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Jun) \$17.90 (\$18.00 London close ..... \$347.85 (\$348.05 denotes midday trading price

#### RMC attack

RMC Group, Europe's largest concrete producer, yesterday made a strong attack on Britain's lack of a low level of infrastructure spending. Page 27.

Tempus 28

Gas go-ahead THE North Sea oil industry received a boost when the Government approved development of three gasfields at an estimated total cost of £2.5 billion. Page 30

## Shell challenged on green audit

BY CARL MORTISHED

SHELL is on a collision course with a group of dissident shareholders over their demands for an environmental audit of the

group's activities. The Anglo/Dutch oil multinational is opposing a resolution tabled for the annual meeting on May 14 that requests that Shell establish an independent external review and audit procedure for its environmental and corporate re-

sponsibility policies. The resolution is supported by 118 mainly church-based shareholders and Pirc. the ethical lobby, which to-gether account for 1 per cent of the shares. It asks for designated board responsibility for the environment, effective internal procedures and a report to shareholders on policy implementation in Nigeria, where Shell came under fire for alleged envi-

ronmental damage. John Jennings, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, the UK holding company, yesterday said the company rejected the implication that the group does not have effective policies in place. He said that responsibility for the environment was already handled at board level by Cor Herkstroter, chairman of Royal Dutch Petroleum,

and a report on Nigeria was being sent to shareholders. The bottom line is we don't think this resolution is

Mr Jennings rejected the demand for an external audit "In a world with no agreed environmental standards, all you can say is that you have complied with internal procedures."

However, Shell is currently conducting pilot environ-mental audits in Nigeria and the UK using external auditors. Pire yesterday said that environmental audits were

accepted as best practice in the oil industry and cited BP, which has an annual environmental audit by Ernst & Young. Tempus, page 28



Jennings: "unnecessary"

## House prices dip in six regions

HOUSE prices in many parts of Britain fell in the first quarter of this year, according to a survey from the Halifax, the UK's biggest building

society. In spite of reports of a 1980sstyle housing boom in London, the Halifax survey found that prices dropped in Scotland, northern and northwest England, Yorkshire, Northern Ireland and Wales in the three months to March 31. The biggest fall occurred in Northern Ireland, where prices fell 3.5 per cent. In Scotland, prices fell by 1.4 per

cent. House prices in the North were down 0.9 per cent. Significant house price rises were confined to the more affluent areas of the South East and Greater London. Prices in London have risen by more than 17 per cent in the past year and by 4.5 per cent over the last quarter.

The rate of annual house

price inflation in Greater London is now more than double that of the average rise. which is 7.2 per cent, according to the index. Gary Marsh, Halifax assistant general manager, said:

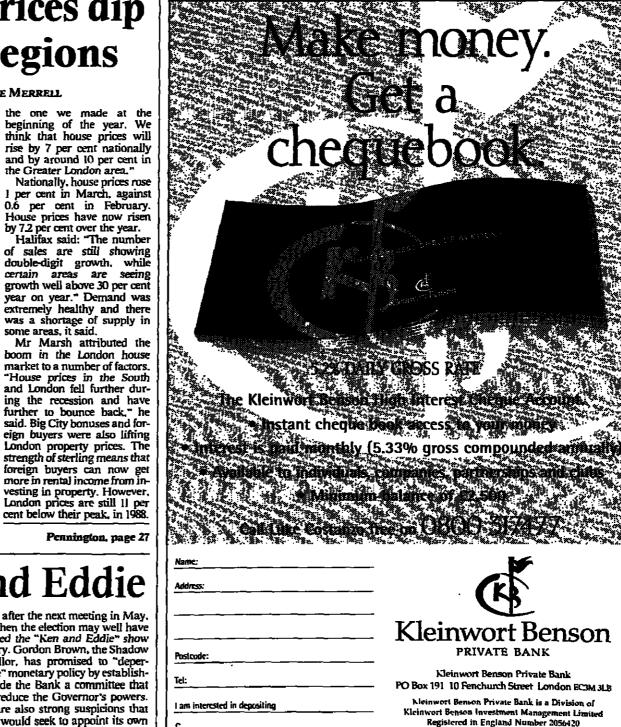
"We are not going to change

By CAROLINE MERRELL beginning of the year. We think that house prices will rise by 7 per cent nationally and by around 10 per cent in the Greater London area." Nationally, house prices rose

> 0.6 per cent in February. ouse prices have now risen by 7.2 per cent over the year. Halifax said: "The number of sales are still showing double-digit growth, while certain areas are seeing growth well above 30 per cent year on year." Demand was

was a shortage of supply in some areas, it said. Mr Marsh attributed the boom in the London house market to a number of factors. "House prices in the South and London fell further during the recession and have further to bounce back," he said. Big City bonuses and foreign buyers were also lifting London property prices. The strength of sterling means that foreign buyers can now get more in rental income from investing in property. However, London prices are still 11 per cent below their peak, in 1988.

Pennington, page 27



Member of the Dresdner Bank Group

### Last tango in Nottingham for Ken and Eddie of the hard man of monetary policy. The two decided to take their final

By Alasdair Murray

 BRITAIN'S longest-running economic soap opera reached what is probably its final episode yesterday with its leading actors - Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George - unsure as to their future roles.

The "Ken and Eddie" show has attracted an avid audience from City traders and homeowners alike over the past three years. The plain-speaking, tobacco-loving Chancellor and Gover-

licly played out their battles over interest rates each month, against the backdrop of a slowly improving economy. Norman Lamont actually established the formal monthly monetary meeting in October 1992, but it was Mr

Clarke's innovation to publish the

show on tour vesterday, meeting in the Inland Revenue office in Nottingham, part of Mr Clarke's constituency. The unfamiliar venue caused technical problems for Mr George, who managed to arrive ten minutes late. But there were no other last-minute surprises in the script and rates are expected to be unchanged at 6 per cent when trading begins this morning.

to come after the next meeting in May. but by then the election may well have consigned the "Ken and Eddie" show to history. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has promised to "depersonalise" monetary policy by establishing inside the Bank a committee that would reduce the Governor's powers. There are also strong suspicions that Labour would seek to appoint its own man at the Bank as soon as possible.

minutes of the meeting six weeks later. Mr Clarke has effortlessly adopted the "man of the people" role. Not to be upstaged, Mr George has won plaudits in the City and abroad for his portrayal The City is predicting a rise in rates

Pennington, page 27

Lyons as he

moves to the

NPI top job

By Marianne Curphey

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Conservatives claim that pensions will be lower under Labour

## Tax relief at centre of parties' dispute

PENSIONS returned to the forefront of election controversy yesterday with a Tory charge that pensions would be lower under Labour, as the party was secretly planning damaging tax rises. Labour swiftly rebutted the attack, criticising the Tories own record on pensions tax and its future policies.

The Conservatives claimed the "£J2 billion black hole" in Labour's spending plans would require tax rises that endangered pensions and

ALASTAIR LYONS, the for-

mer chief executive of the

National & Provincial Build-

ing Society, who left the Abbey

National a week ago with a

£700,000 payoff, is to join

National Provident Institu-

tion, the pensions provider,

Under the existing executive

bonus scheme, he also stands to gain up to 25 per cent of his

Shares in

A&L to be

auctioned

By Caroline Merrell

THE Alliance & Leicester

Building Society, due to

float on the stock market on

April 21, is to sell off shares

to institutional investors in

a series of auctions. The A&L is to issue 582

million shares to 2.4 mil-

lion of its savers and bor-

rowers on the day it floats.

A fair proportion of these shareholders will want to

iately through the society's

free dealing service. Cazen-

ove, the broker acting for

the society, is to sell the

shares in a series of three

auctions, starting on April

Everyone selling imm-

ediately will receive the

same price — the average

price from all the auctions.

Cazenove is sending out

pre-registration forms, for

completion by April 16:

bids will be accepted only from Stock Exchange

members. People using the A&L to sell their wind-

fall shares in it will get

their money on April 28.

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

County Duchies died there on a December 1996 (Egizate shout 25,000) ALFONS (Egizate shout 25,000) ALFONS (Egizate shout 25,000) ALFONS (Egizate shout 270,000) Egizate shout 270,000) EBMNY, BERTRAM EDGAR DENNY late of Banking, Essex died there on 11 Februsry 1997 (Estate shout 250,000) FOX. REGINALD BERAN FOX otherwise BEGINALD BERAN FOX otherwise BEGINALD BERAN FOX otherwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX betterwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX betterwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX betterwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX etherwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX betterwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX betterwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX otherwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX otherwise BEGINALD SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX SEVAN FOX BETTER FOX SEVAN FOX FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX SEVAN FOX FOX FOX SEVAN FOX FOX FOX SEVAN FOX FOX FOX FOX FOX FOX FOX FOX F

Aged 1996 state about £13,000) NFFNEY are FORD, VERA EAN NFFNEY mee FORD SINGLE OMAN have of Chingford, nadon £4 died there on £5 state about £8,000)

GIBSON nee LEE, IOSEPHINE ANNIE GIBSON nee LEE SINGLE WOMAN lete of Penham, Newcastle upon Type died at Lemington, Newcastle upon Type on 26 May 1996 (Estate shout £15,000)

(URPHY, JOHN MURPHY late of

o ale about £6,000) FION, EDWARD NEWTON of Sheffleld, South whire died there on 21

ishte ober 1996 see about £10,000)

with a salary of £325,000.

could cost companies between windfall tax on the utilities E40 billion and E50 billion in posed a threat to the value of extra contributions to their

pension schemes. Labour intended not only to change the taxation of share dividends, but also higher rate tax relief on pension contributions, the Conservatives said. The abolition of all pension tax relief is integral to the Conservatives' proposed reforms of the basic state pension, but this would affect future generations of workers, not those now contributing to schemes. The Conservatives also argued that Labour plans for a

salary, equivalent to a further

McBrien as chief executive in

June. Mr McBrien retires from

the board at the beginning of

July. Mr Lyons, 43, was previ-

ously managing director of Ab-bey National's insurance

division after N&P was taken

and-a-half times his annual

A separate pension scheme,

yet to be confirmed, will be

added to his new salary when

he transfers his existing pension

National Provident Institu-

tion, founded in 1835 by Quak-

ers, has 390,000 members and

£10 billion funds under man-

agement. There has been con-

siderable speculation over its

future because access to capi-

tal, the cost of new technology

and regulation have recently

constrained its investment

Ten days ago NPI said it

was not up for sale, in spite of having admitted it had held

takeover talks with AMP of

Australia. Abbey National

Yesterday Mr Lyons insist-ed NPI would still be a

mutual in ten years' time, in

the way that Bradford &

Bingley and the Nationwide

building societies have a

Mr Lyons, who read eco-

nomics at Cambridge and has

been the finance director of

both Asda and the N&P, said

he disagreed with the theory

that \*medium-sized mutual

life companies needed to

demutualise in order to gain

access to capital".

He added: "NPI is a strong

player and clearly focused in

the IFA sector. It will remain a

mutual full stop.

city Muriel Adey accountraction the body of trustees

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

future as mutuals".

performance.

across from Abbey National.

salary of £250,000.

£81,250 per annum.

pensions, as it would hit share prices. Labour first mooted this tax in 1992. In support of their contentions, the Conservatives cited City sources. including Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management, which is responsible for

the BT pension fund. Labour said that there was no basis for the Tories' claims. dimissing them as "desperate talk, intended to frighten". Ali-stair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

are entitled, as nontaxpayers, planning to abolish pension tax relief and, as for the impact In his March 1993 Budget, Norman Lamont reduced the of the windfall tax, the claims

fly in the face of substantial rate from 25 to 20 per cent. independent evidence." Peter Lilley, the Social Sec-The Labour manifesto. urity Secretary, yesterday de-nied that the party would need which pledges to review "the corporate and capital gains tax to repeat the exercise. He said: regime" and the party's "ideo-logical" resistance to dividends There is no black hole in our finances that puts this type of is said by the Tories to hint at pressure on us." changes in Advance Corpora-tion Tax (ACT), paid by com-panies when they distribute The Conservatives said that the loss of the ACT rebate could cost company pension

billion to their schemes to replace this lost income. Sections of the new Pensions Act. which came into effect this week, oblige companies to make good funding gaps at once, rather than over a period of years as before. The figure is based on the £1 billion contributed by BT to its fund, after the

last change to ACT. Mr Ross Goobey said: "A reduction in ACT would reduce the security of pension schemes. funds £2.4 billion a year. The just at the time when the Pensions Act is increasing the party estimated that comsecurity of pension schemes." panies would need to contrib-

## **Crisis of**

By Ouver August

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Developsuccession crisis ahead of its annual meeting of shareholders in London this weekend. Today's board meeting, convened to appoint a successor to Ron Freeman, the first vicepresident, was cancelled.

The bank, which hands out aid to Eastern Europe, appears split between America, the big-gest shareholder, and Belgium and France — the founder shareholder which is nominally in charge of the bank through

Jacques de Larosière. The position of first vice-

Mr Freeman and M Selliers are believed to have fallen out over Jacques Attali's departure. The EBRD did not deny that Mr Freeman left earlier than expected or that M Selliers wanted to succeed him. The bank said:

"We are still looking." Last night M Selliers said: " Freeman."

## succession deepens at EBRD

president is supposed to be filled by an American, according to an inter-governmental agreement. One American candidate, the head of a US public company, withdrew after Mr Freeman's resignation was announced on Tues-

day because of a legal conflict. The French and Belgian factions within the bank are now pushing for Mr Freeman's deputy, Guy de Selliers, to be appointed despite his Belgian nationality.

The Times has learnt that M de Selliers is close to M de Larosière and may have his direct support. M Selliers was brought to the bank by Jacques Attali, the former president. A bank insider said of M Selliers: " He practically

The board is said to face a crisis over Mr Freeman's succession because his resignation was unexpected.

am not a candidate and I am in full agreement with the process that the president has put in place to find a successor for Ron

Pennington, page 27

# Pay rise awaits over by Abbey last year. Mr Lyons's pay-off from Ab-bey represented more than two-

dividends to shareholders, A

reduction would have a serious

impact on pension funds that

Alastair Lyons insisted that the NPI would still be a mutual in ten years' time

## **Watchdog fines Lincoln**

IMRO, the City watchdog for fund managers, has fined Lincoln Unit Trust Managers and LIV, its investment arm, £20,000 and ordered it to pay £30,000 costs.

The move follows a failure to bank clients' money invested in personal equity plans (Peps) on time and breaching compliance moni-

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clients suffered from the breaches, which occurred between April 1993 and February 1995, Imro said.

Lincoln said that its unit trust and Peps operation had been completely overhauled since its takeover of Laurential Fund Managers in April 1995. Save & Prosper, another fund manager, has given a warning to companies provid-

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STILLING Steam Inshel Whitelers law of Flat 7, Eccleston Equare, Loudon Wil, who died on 16th September, 1996. Particulars to Charles Russell (solicitors), 8-10 fleer Fetter Lane, London Ecka.

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overwhelmed by this sum-mer's wave of windfall shares from demutualising building societies and insurance

About 16 million people are due to receive about £23 billion worth of shares from the flotations of the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Northern Rock. Woolwich and Norwich

## **Downturn** in profits for JP Morgan

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

JP MORGAN, the American merchant bank, reported a surprise downturn in profits for the first quarter of this year in spite of the rising stock market and booming corpo-

rate finance activity. Most banks are expected to report strong results because of booming financial activity early this year.

JP Morgan's income dropped from \$439 million a year ago to \$424 million as expenses rose by more than

areas it is trying to develop. Revenues rose by about \$100 million to \$1.83 million.

vestment and trading revenues shot up 28 per cent to \$276 million.

But revenues from marketmaking and equity investment declined. Net income per share falls from \$2.13 to \$2.04.

## \$100 million to \$1.19 billion, the result of investment in

Finance and advisory revenues rose 8 per cent to \$451 million, while proprietary in-

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#### building industry THE building industry picked up slightly in the first quarter, according to figures released by the Department of the Environment yesterday. Total construction orders increased 3 per cent in the three months to the end of

First-quarter lift for

February, compared with the previous quarter. However, the annual rate of increase remains at just 1 per cent.
Orders for private housing sector fell 1 per cent quarteron-quarter, but were 36 per cent higher than a year before. Public housing and housing association orders dropped 2 per cent quarter-on-quarter and were 11 per cent lower than in the same period last year. Infrastructure orders were 10 per cent lower in the three

### months to February, compared with the previous three months. However, they were 6 per cent higher than in the same period of last year. **Surge for Dresdner**

DRESDNER BANK, the German commercial bank that owns Kleinwort Benson in Britain, yesterday reported a 30.7 per cent rise in 1996 net profits to DM1.58 billion. The bank is paying an ordinary annual dividend of DMI.45 a share and a special anniversary bonus of 10 pfennigs a share. The bank did not show separate results for Kleinwort Benson, which has now been fully absorbed into Dresdner's investment

#### Rank buyback approved

SHAREHOLDERS of Rank Group, the leisure and entertainment organisation, yesterday approved plans for the company to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares. Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, told the annual meeting that the company was in a period of transition and its businesses generally had made good progress. He added it has been a quiet period for video releases and lower operating profit in video duplication has broadly offset increases elsewhere.

#### EU drops hint on BT

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday said it was confident that its £12 billion takeover of MCI, America's second-largest longdistance phone company, will receive European Union approval before the summer. The comments came after the office of Karel van Miert, the EU's Competition Commissioner, hinted that an approval may be issued before the June II deadline. The merger of BT and MCI is not expected to receive American regulatory approval before the autumn.

#### **Success for Friendly**

FRIENDLY HOTELS, owner of the Comfort, Clarion and Quality hotel chains, has found a buyer for its troubled serviced office business. But the group, which is striving to reduce its debts, said it would not sign the deal until it was sure the buyer could afford to keep up payments. The company returned to the black last year, earning £4.47 million before tax after writing back £1.3 million from a provision taken in 1995 for writing down the property value of the serviced offices arm.

#### TransCo attack

INDUSTRIAL gas consumers yesterday pressed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for tough treatment of TransCo, BG's pipeline monopoly, in its investigation into price curbs planned by the regulator. The Energy Intensive Users Group urged endorsement of the regulator's proposals. Lisa Waters, policy adviser to the group, said: "We have paid too much already for TransCo's monopoly service and it is time users got the deal they deserve."

#### Wyefield warning

WYEFIELD, the struggling furniture maker, has given warning that flat markets in Britain and Germany have left it unable to pull itself into profit over the past nine months. The company, now heading for its second consecutive year in the red, lost £337,000 (£491.000 loss) in the last six months of 1996. Prospects for its last quarter were much better, it said. Losses per share eased to 1.3p (1.9p loss) and there is no dividend. Its shares fell lp to 14p.



The Queen's Award for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement 1997



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Source: NRS Sept - Feb '97, BMRC 1995

HUUN

☐ Britain has two distinct housing markets ☐ Vanguard's array of share option schemes ☐ Sorry tale at the EBRD

Homing in on higher prices

☐ HOUSING, the topic that ruined a thousand 1980s dinner parties, is back on the menu again. Family homeowners are boasting about the thousands they have already made on their purchase. Parents are nagging young Charles or Lucy to secure their future by jumping on the housing ladder. Even commentators, most of whom live in the South it must be seen. the South, it must be said, are spreading the word that the boom times are back.

Step outside the shires and the leafy suburbs for a second. The reality is that the housing recovery to date has been fragile and patchy. Prices in Greater London have risen 17 per cent in the past year, while other areas have seen increases barely in line with inflation. In the first three months of this year prices in the North of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland actually fell.

There are specific structural reason why prices in London and the South Éast are running so far ahead. The region has a shortage of suitable housing, attracts the bulk of foreign buyers and has a service-based economy that is outpacing the rest of the country. Right at the top end of the market there are all those City bonuses swilling around.

Yet there are some very good reasons, outlined in a recent paper from Nikko Europe, to believe that the nationwide hous-

ing market is never going to return to the heady days of the 1980s. Mortgage interest relief has been cut back and the

suspicion is that it will be phased out entirely eventually — no matter which party wins the election. The manifestos have also been curiously quiet on the subject of housing in contract to subject of housing, in contrast to the days when council house sales were a central plank of the Conservative policy.

Flexible labour markets,

meanwhile, have made it harder to take out and service inflexible mortgages, while low inflation makes high debt burdens seem

less attractive, says Nikko.

Where London leads, the rest of the country will follow. Housing booms have always had as much to do with consumer psychology as economic fundamentals. If those who have profited from the price rises of the 1970s and 1980s can persuade the twentysomethings, who have never experienced a slump, that

immediate home ownership is the only way forward, the whole sorry story of the 1990s slump may yet be replayed, the argument goes. Demographics, and the need

to create four million or so new homes there, should protect the South East from the worst effects of any crash. Yet there are two clear dangers. One is that the above psychology will drive up prices to unsustainable levels in areas where there is no under-lying growth in demand.

The other is that houses in the South East will end up worth so much more than those elsewhere that movement from one area to the other becomes unattractive one way, because of years of lost house price inflation, and impossible in the other direction with disastrous effects on mobility in the jobs market.

#### A drug on the market

□ VANGUARD Medica is one of the most impressive biotechnology companies to have joined the stock market. It was founded, and is advised, by a dazzling array of pharmaceutical industry talent - men such as Sir John Vane, a Nobel prizewinner, and Sir David Jack, who was responsible at Glaxo for PENNINGTON



developing the Zantac ulcer drug, one of the most successful

compounds developed.

A pity, therefore, that Van-guard's first annual report since its flotation has to devote four pages to spelling out the complexities of a profusion of ten separate share option schemes. There are approved and un-approved schemes, a scheme dependent on share price performance, a scheme dependent on the FT-SE pharmaceuticals index, and even a scheme just for the benefit of Sir William Asscher, another heavyweight. With so much effort devoted to the directors' remuneration, it's a wonder that Vanguard has time to do any research.

It looks like some experiment

gone hideously wrong — option schemes breeding out of control in a test-tube somewhere. The reason is Vanguard's unusual origins, which justify the award of options, quite contrary to Greenbury, to non-executive directors - a practice that ceased on flotation anyway. The ex-ercise of the main options is sensibly staggered to give directors a long-term interest in the

company's performance. There are schemes to remunerate the founders, not all of whom are on the board — you do not attract such a selection of medical greats without offering something other than a further chance to alleviate human suffering. There are some tax funnies that define which scheme is best, all quite legal. Yet the arrangements do not create a terribly good impression.

Although not all exercisable, the options held by Robert Mansfield, chief executive, for example, are already worth a notional £4.7 million. Vanguard's sales last year were rather more modest, at £595,000. The suspicion is that without vet producing a single drug of note. Britain's biotech industry has already created some huge for-tunes — nearly all of them for company insiders

#### Trouble at the Glistening Bank

DEVENTS move from bad to farce at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the institution set up to help the poor and the huddled masses of eastern Europe that has indeed turned out to be a fount of generosity — to the people who work there. The Americans are understandably keen to retain some control by putting in one of their own as first vice-president, subordinate only to Jacques de Larosière, the

The departure of Ron Freeman, heading back to Salomon Brothers with a huge sigh of relief, one assumes, has allowed the Franco-Belgian axis within the bank to block this. They want a European, to preserve the cultural identity of the bank More specifically, they want Guy de Selliers, a protègé of Jacques

Attali. Mr Attali was M de Larosière's predecessor, thrown out for spending rather more on doing up the London head-quarters than on those selfsame

huddled masses.
If chauvinist Anglo-Saxon hackles rise at this sorry tale of influence-broking, then this is hardly surprising. Just rewrite the scenario at the Bank of England — or the Federal Reserve, where there is a fuss because a member of the influential Open Market Committee is merely going out with a mer-chant banker. Imagine if Eddie George, having taken over from a sacked Rupert Pennant-Rea, within four years was trying to move in his protégé as heir apparent. For M de Larosière is due to retire in five months. On present form, this could leave the EBRD with two spaces at the top.

#### Exit poll

☐ SO farewell then the Ken and Eddie show, unless the polls have got it wrong again. It was always an undignified label for a meeting of two financial minds. The Gordon and Eddie show is assured of at least one performance, in May, so Gordon can raise interest rates. Let us hope the name does not stick. The only Gordon and Edward anyone around here can recall is in the Thomas the Tank Engine books.

## RMC attacks lack of **UK** transport policy

By Paul Durman

RMC GROUP, Europe's largest concrete producer, yesterday made a strong attack on Britain's lack of a transport policy and its low level of infrastructure spending.

RMC was reporting re duced annual profits of £295.3 million, down from £324.9 million in 1995 because of the depressed German construction industry. Yet even in a had year. Germany's output of ready mixed concrete - a proxy for total construction spending, according to Derek Jenkins, finance director was, at 67 million cubic metres, more than three times the UK total of 21 million.

Peter Young, chief executive, said Britain was investing much less in new roads and buildings than its European Union partners. He said: "It's terrible. Unfortunately the environmentalists have won all the votes. There's no votes in putting anything right at the moment. There will be in ten years' time when the whole place is grid-locked."

Mr Young said the weaknesses of the often-criticised Private Finance Initiative was only a side issue, since the PFI could only ever account for a small part of total infrastructure spending. Ultimately,



Peter Young, left, and Derek Jenkins yesterday

government spending on

RMC has changed its accounting policy to state its profits at average exchange rates, which it said gave a

there was no alternative to better indication of underlying trading. Since RMC sells nearly all its ready mixed concrete and other building materials in the countries it

makes them, currency is only

important in translating re-

sults into sterling. On the old basis using year-end exchange rates, RMC's profits fell from £329.3 million to £275.8 million last year.

Group sales were barely changed at £4.56 billion, although sales in Germany were £120 million lower at £1.68 billion. German profits fell by a quarter to £139.6 million, held back by the severe winter last year, reduced public spending and a fall in housebuilding. RMC has shed 1,100 staff in Germany. This and other redundancies contributed to group restructuring costs of E22 million.
In the UK RMC made a

profit of £72.8 million (£76.8 million). Besides government cutbacks and slow progress on the PFI, RMC blamed the lack of a significant recovery in

new housing.
Although Mr Young said trading in France was "torrid". RMC's operations in the Irish Republic, Portugal and Denmark performed strongly, helping the "other European division to raise profits to £56.1 million (£51.4 million). A final dividend of 18.7p

should be paid on June 2. This will lift the total payout by 5.8 per cent to 26.5p.

Tempus, page 28

#### Samsung to make Verity's flat speaker

A BRITISH company that has developed loudspeakers no thicker than the cover of a hardback book has agreed to license the technology to Samsung, Korea's largest electronics maker (Eric

Reguly writes). Verity Group said that Samsung will make "flatpanel" speakers for the percomputer, media, audio and video markets. Samsung, which will pay Verity a royalty on sales, said that the technology could "revolutionise the dspeaker industry". Flat-panel speakers, de-

signed to save space and weight, dispense with the traditional cone, magnet and metal coils. An electro-magnetic device activates a wafer-thin panel of compos-ite materials. The speakers could be used in computers, telephones, aircraft and cars.



GLAXO WELLCOME, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, said clinical results of a new drug designed to treat hepatitis B, one of the most common diseases in developing countries, pro-

duced encouraging results. Lehman Brothers, the securities firm, estimates sales of the drug, called lamivudine, could reach \$1 billion by 2005. The drug is to be submitted for regulatory approvals in Asia later this year.

Analysts said lamivudine has strong sales potential because about 350 million people, the majority of them in the poorer parts of Asia and Africa, suffer from disease. Hepatitis B, a virus that causes inflammation of the liver, is often fatal. Glaxo shares rose 20p to £11.0812. Lehman said: "Lamivudine



Sykes: approvals sought

has the greatest commercial potential of any drug in Glaxo's short-term pipeline." Steve Abbott, at Credit Lvonnais Laing, the broker, said: The company, in its very conservative way, called it encouraging. That's a 'Glaxoism' for very, very good."

taken orally, was discovered by BioChem Pharma, of Canada, and was licensed to Glaxo in 1990. The results of its phase three clinical trials the last trials before a drug reaches the market - involving 358 Asian patients with chronic hepatitis B resulted in liver damage reversal in two thirds of the cases. In some patients, the virus could no longer be detected.

The price of the drug, estimated at \$800 a year, is too expensive for many patients in the developing world. Glaxo, it appears, will have to market the drug directly to national health authorities. Glaxo, whose chief executive is Sir Richard Sykes. expects Asian regulatory approvals by early next year. North American and European approvals will also be sought.

Tempus, page 28

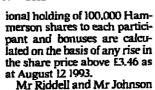
## **Ex-directors get** £75,000 incentive

BY CARL MORTISHED

TWO former directors of Ham- ional holding of 100,000 Hammerson, the property group, received payments totalling £75,000 last year under a phantom share option scheme after they had left the company. James Riddell, finance direc-

tor until June 1995, received £41,200 under the incentive scheme. He had previously had £150,000 in compensation for loss of office. Roy Johnson, also a director, retired at the end of 1995, but last year received £34,334 under the scheme. A Hammerson spokesman

said the scheme was initiated in August 1993 after the appointment of Ron Spinney as chief executive. Hammerson's annual report says that remuneration policy is to ensure that through fair reward tak-ing account of market conditions, the group is able to attract, retain and motivate experienced individuals". The scheme awards a not-



Mr Riddell and Mr Johnson no longer have any phantom shares under the scheme.



Spinney: group chief

## Fashion retailer poised to expand

By Sarah Cunningham

FRENCH CONNECTION, the fashion wholesaler and retailer, is planning to open eight more shops this year, adding a third more selling space, after nearly doubling its profits last year.

Pre-tax profit at the com-pany, which also makes the Nicole Farhi high fashion line, reached £6.2 million in the year to January 31 from £3.4

million a year earlier. Turnover was up 17.3 per cent to £83 million and same store sales rose 21.6 per cent, boosted by a particularly strong second half in the UK. The only words of caution on current trade concerned the US, which has had a slow

start to the spring season. Half of the new stores will be in the UK and half in America. They will take the total chain to 50 and take selling space from 100,000 sq ft to 130,000 sq ft. The company, which has widened its ranges to include shoes and accessories, is also opening three franchises in the UK and is considering opening its first Nicole Farhi store in the US. French Connection is the

latest in a string of high street clothing retailers, including Next, Moss Bros and Oasis, to report strong fig-ures in recent days. The environment has been a lot better." David Bernstein, chairman, said yesterday. But he suggested that not all retailers are benefiting: "The strong are getting stronger; it is not across the board.

The shares fell 20p to 325p. hit by profit-taking. Earnings per share were 18.3p (10.6p) and the final dividend of 2.25p (2p), payable on July 2. gives a full-year dividend of 2.75p (2p).

Tempus, page 28

## THERE ARE MISERS AND THERE ARE **MAXI**MISERS..

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US corporate giants report record first-quarter earnings

## GE and Chrysler cheer investors

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

UPBEAT results for General Electric and Chrysler, two of America's largest companies, have spurred hopes that US industrial performance may not be as bad as many investors feared during the first quarter of this year.

Worries about falling corporate profits have caused much of the recent weakness on the New York stock market as investors anticipated adconsumer demand and higher interest rates. General Electric reported

record first-quarter earnings. up 11 per cent to \$1.67 billion, and predicted that it would deliver record results for the year. Ten of its 12 main divisions reported earnings increases, with six achieving double figure increases. The star performer was GE Capital Services where earnings rose 16 per cent to \$754

million, from \$650 million.

John Welch, the GE chair-man, said: "These strong firstquarter results position GE to deliver another year of record

performance in 1997." Chrysler Corp. America's third-largest car manufacturer, also reported record firstquarter profits of \$1.70 billion. up from \$1.67 billion in the first quarter last year. Earnings of \$1.45 a share were slightly above Wall Street's expectations. Continuing strong consumer demand.

helped by increased sales

sales and revenues.

Although yesterday's re-suits may not be enough to shore up the weakening stock market, they gave investors some hope that the invest-ment outlook may be better than many analysis have been

predicting.
"A lot of experts have been saying that industrial profits will flatten out and maybe decline but so far they seem to have been wrong," a New

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

## Water and electricity mix as utilities gain ground

WATER and electricity stocks provided an interesting mix yesterday as utility shares

surged into action. United Utilities, the water group, put on 26½p to 670p, Severn Trent enjoyed another good day, rising 172p to 7362p, while Thames added 8½p to 679½p.

Buyers moved in to take advantage of the apparent confusion over the windfall tax, and the extent to which a Labour government would squeeze the utilities.

Positive talk from brokers also helped to lift water shares. Schroders is a buyer of the sector, believing that the risk factors have been exaggerated and political uncertainties already discounted. United Utilities and Wessex Water, up 8p to 390p yesterday, are particular favourites.

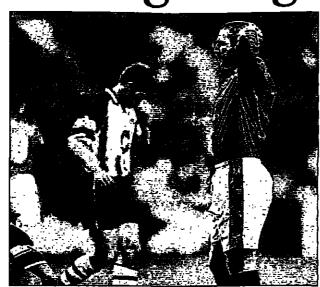
The generators also moved up after the recent NatWest Securities note. PowerGen added 22p to 6332p, with National Power up 122p to 527p. National Grid saw more than 15 million shares change hands. The shares ended up 2p at 2132 p.

The added fizz generated by activity in the utilities helped the market to notch up stronger gains overall. Ignoring an uninspiring performance from Wall Street and Kenneth Clarke's meeting with Eddie George, the FT-SE 100 closed up 20.9 at 4,313.2, its best of the day. Volumes remained thin with just over 600 million shares changing hands and dealers looking to bed and breakfast deals to boost activity.

Centrica, up 2p to 593p, and BG, up 3p to 179p, were among the most heavily traded stocks with BT also busy as 18 million shares changed hands. BT shares ended 9p higher at 442½ p while British Steel fell 12p after a further sterling-related downgrade.

Glazo Wellcome was in demand, adding 20p to Ell.0812 after news on encouraging trials of lamivudine, a. drug used to treat hepatitis B. SmithKline Beecham moved up 2p to 9172p, while Zeneca jumped 11p to £18.16.

A buy recommendation helped Unilever to put on 25p to £15.59, while talk of bid interest from Associated British Foods sweetened Tate & Lyle 8p to 444p. ABF, which reports results next week, edged down 1½p to 528p. Booker was also in demand. adding 7½p to 334p.



Manchester United lost in the City as well as on the pitch

Fashion retailers continued their run with Next one of the top FT-SE 100 performers for much of the day. It ended up 125p at 645p. French Connection announced an 81.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, but the shares, after recent good rises, fell 20p on profit taking

The green light in the US for a new soft contact lens gave

£3.5 million. AIM-quoted Tracker Network accelerated into the fast lane with a 40p rise to 575p, a high for the shares. The vehicle tracking group moved into profit last year and reported a strong first quarter of 1997.

In spite of better than expected figures from RMC, the buildings materials group, some concern over the weaker

German market pulled shares

back to close down 42p to

THE Prudential added 4½p to 568½p after announcing the sale of its Italian Life business for £46 million. Analysts at Lehman Brothers rated the shares a "buy". The Pru's recently acquired stake in J Rothschild Assurance is seen as an attractive move that promises to yield further benefits.

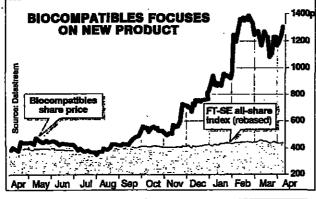
parent company Biocompatibles a hefty boost. The hares soared to a trading high before ending at £13.75, level with its previous best and up 822p. Talk of a £16 target price could fuel further rises. Toiletries manufacturer Swallowfield, supplier of own-branded goods to retail-

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

9962 p. Tarmac, after its recent strength, also fell, dipping 3p to 113p.

News of another licensing deal for its flat panel loudspeaker technology lifted shares in Verity Group by 42p to 513p. Verity's NXT subsidiary has signed a deal ers such as Marks & Spencer. rose 8 p to 226p after a 31 per with Samsung, Korea's largcent rise in pre-tax profits to est electronics company.



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Mercury Asset Manage-ment benefited from a broker note switching from hold to buy. MAM added 1920 to £12.74, while Rathbone Brothers, the banking and stockbroking group, moved up 42p to 3242p after announcing a 19 per cent profits increase. Commercial Union added 12p to 666p.

The oil sector again attracted attention. British Borneo jumped 30p to £13.70 after news of a new link with Vastar Resources in the Gulf of Mexico, Dana Petroleum was unchanged at 26p after bid BP rose 2p to 6952p after an upbeat annual meeting

Manchester United fell back 112p to 6432p after its defeat in the semi-final first leg of the European Cup, and failure in its attempt to extend the season. Northern Leisure shimmled 9p higher to 240½ p after its £1.5 million acquisition of a new dancing venue in Burnley, while Rank, which has won shareholder approval for a share buyback, dipped 2½p to 435½p.
Among retailers, House of

Fraser was again sought, adding 6p to 165p, while MFI put on 32p to 1522p. Bid whispers pushed Wickes 9p higher to 1472p. CIA, the media group, rose

5p to 1612p after encouraging results, while Rackwood Minerals dipped 3p to 51p after further news on its rights issue. Bakyrchik Gold jumped 26p to 152p after winning shareholder approval to increase its stake in Bakyrchik Mining Venture.

**RJB** Mining continued to win followers, adding 45p to 440p after results earlier in the week. 

GILT-EDGED: Dealers

reported a quiet day with little activity. Volumes were described as very thin, slipping below levels earlier this week to 37,000. The June series of the long gilt ended off £732 at £108 2932. At the short end Treasury 8

per cent 2000 was unchanged at £1021732 while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed down £632 □ NEW YORK: US stocks were narrowly mixed in early trading, with weakness in retail issues and further profittaking in technology shares weighing on the market. At

midday, the Dow Jones indus-

trial average was down 0.75 at

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Sydney: Frankfurt Singapore Brussels: Paris: Zurich: question of an audit.

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MAJOR CHANGES
RISES: Telspec
FALLS: Sentry Farm

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Rowlinson Secs	282'ap (+15p)
Premier Famell	4821 <sub>2</sub> p (+25p)
Laird	411120 (+13p)
Grand Met	50112p (+11p)
BT	. 4421:p (+9p)
Next	645p (+121,p)
FALLS: Sentry Farm French Conn	
Danka BS Sys	. 495p (-171 <sub>30</sub> )
Leopold J	475p (-15p)
Shield Diag	. 652 <sup>12</sup> p (-10p)
Closing Prices	Page 31

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### **TEMPUS**

## Righteous indignation

SHELL'S response to the Church-sponsored resolution on environmental policy sounds almost indignant. Curious, given the small weight carried by the dissident investors' votes but, perhaps unwittingly, they have touched a soft spot. Shell derives great pride from its reputation for best practice in the oil industry. As in most companies dominated by engineers, technical excellence and flawless procedures are highly prized at Shell. Yesterday the company swept away the demands for environmental monitoring, board responsibility and reports to shareholders. All that is done, they say, but there is still the niggling

Shell's objections to external audit look spurious. Environmental and safety stan-dards for oil exploration exist in the developed world and could be adopted for the group worldwide, if Shell chose to do so. Compliance could be checked by Shell's auditors - indeed, the most embarrassing revelation is that Shell's rival, BP, already has such an audit,

Nevertheless it would be wrong to place too much importance in accountants totting up figures and conducting long-distance telephone verification. The real issue for Shell and other oil multinationals is how much extra cost their shareholders are prepared to tolerate. Shell has the know-how to be as squeaky clean as is humanly possible but the company is also under pressure to raise returns to investors. In many countries, notably Nigeria, it must operate in joint venture with state oil companies who will object to paying for environmental goldplating. There are always rival oil companies waiting in the wings.

#### Glaxo

#### Wellcome

IN MANY ways, lamivudine is a dream drug for Glaxo Wellcome. Designed to treat hepatitis B, its market potential is enormous; more than 300 million people, most of them in the poorer regions of Asia and Africa, suffer from

Competition will not be a problem. Big pharmaceuticals companies have tended to ignore Third World diseases. Third World incomes are not high enough to afford First World treatments. Furthermore, lamivudine is not a one-shot treatment. When patients stop taking it. the disease usually reappears. A cynic might view lamivudine takers as life-time customers.

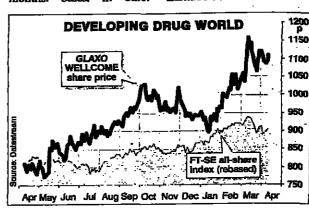
The fly in the ointment is that lamivudine may cost This presents a marketing problem, but one that is not insurmountable. Glaxo can appeal to the national and regional health authorities, arguing that the cost of the drug is cheaper than keeping patients in hospital beds for months. Sales, in other

patients \$800 a year - equiv-

alent to the annual income of

many hepatitis B patients.

words, may start slowly. The development of lamivudine provides further evidence that Glaxo's world will not end when Zantac, its bestselling drug, loses its US patent protection this summer. Over time, lamivudine and several other potions under development have the potential to more than offset Zantac's decline.



#### **RMC**

IN their three-piece suits and company ties, RMC Group's senior management are en-gagingly old-fashioned. They have yet to surrender to the short termism usually imposed by the tyranny of sixmonthly reporting.

As a consequence, the concrete makers are sanguine about the problems of the German construction market, where RMC has its biggest and most profitable husiness. Volumes of ready mixed concrete fell 7 per cent last year and may fall by another 5 per cent this year. Yet the German market remains enormous, its output of ready mixed concrete more than three times greater than the UK total even at the current depressed levels. RMC has already cut costs and has laid off 1,100 German workers, one of the biggest items in £22 million

of restructuring. In the UK, the pick-up in housebuilding will lift RMC.

but the bigger problem remains the lack of infrastructure spending.

RMC's strong cashilow enables it to keep adding new businesses. The most obvious of the current opportunities are Granulats, the struggling French aggregates business that Redland is anxious to sell. RMC's profits could move ahead to £320 million this year. Although the shortterm outlook for the shares is unexciting, their longer term attractions are compelling.

#### Retailing

YOUNG British women love fashion but, on the whole, do not like paying for it. In contrast with Italy or France, where women spend more of their income on clothes and insist on high quality, young British females want the catwalk look, care little about quality and resent paying high prices. Welcome to Brit-

ain, home of the Spice Girls. There are a handful of fashion chains that have de-

veloped the knack of getting ultra-fashionable clothes on to their racks at high speed. Two of them, Oasis and French Connection, reported this week and their skill showed up in excellent sales and proft figures. French Connection said yesterday that it enjoyed like-for-like sales growth of an astonishing 43 per cent in the second half of last year.

Both Oasis and French Connection are good at shifting slow-moving stock from the shops (failed fashions are death to retailers) and they have invested in attractive, clean-looking showrooms that look posher than the stuff on the racks. In addition, they are both small chains, with a large clientele.

shares in the two retailers are expensive. But, also unlike the clothes, they should be held past the winter as they represent good long-term

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

WALL STREET

## **DOLLAR RATES** 1.2804-1.2830 ... 12.07-12.08 ... 35.39-35,43 Austria ...... Beigium (Com) Canada .....

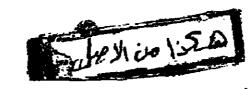
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DIARY

#### Vyner bares his soul

TONY VYNER rather let the side down when the triumvirate of the grocery world took to the stage at the Savoy Hotel. The outgoing managing director of Sainsbury was seated alongside Sir Alistair Grant, the former chairman of Safeway, and Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth. the retiring chairman of Tesco, at an open forum, hosted by the Grocery Benevolent Fund. Asked about their biggest disap-pointment, Lord MacLaurin cited his failed bid for Safeway, Sir Alistair said a failed bid "for a Scottish

Vyner, meanwhile, referred back to the opening of a store called Victor Value. There was "a great big bird" who would open the stores, he continued, wearing little more than a fur coat. His biggest regret? "That I never saw her

#### Sorrell's spur

MARTIN SORRELL 52. modestly attributes his success to "an acute attack of andropause". Hit by the male menopause at the age of 40, Sorrell was spurred on to start his own business.

Twelve years later, he is chief executive of WPP, the world's largest advertising and marketing services company. Interviewed in Director magazine, Sorrell cites his father, head of JM Stone, the electrical retailer, as his all-time bero.



Sorrell: "andropause"

#### Enlarged duties

NOW Laurence Isaacson has a rival when it comes to matters of waist. The deputy chairman of Groupe Chez Gérard has been upstaged by Clare Whitely, the finance director of the restaurant business who has resigned to have a baby in June. Her departure brings the number of female finance directors in British quoted companies down to four. Croda, J Sainsbury, BTR, and MFI stand alone now.

Whitely was the woman who oversaw the group's £3.4 million acquisitions of the Livebait and St Quentin restaurants. Isaacson said: "We have been one of the few businesses lucky enough to have a finance director who is expanding as rapidly as the company

#### On the run

BEWARE, commuters arriving at Haslemere station tonight. Gareth David, former business journalist turned City PR man at College Hill, plans to plaster the station platform with posters pro-claiming: "Help the man who saved your buffet cars, save the children at risk." In a bid to raise money for the NSPCC by running in the London Marathon, David's aim is to jog commuters' memories, reminding them of his victory over South West

Trains last year. STAFF at Camelot are celebrating their success after a flutter on the Grand National. Barred from taking part in the National Lottery, employees bet heavily on Monday's race - some tempted by an each-way punt on a horse called Camelot Knight - winning £10.000

MORAG PRESTON

#### **ECONOMIC VIEW**



ANATOLE KALETSKY

## The truth about tax, spending and the standard of living

Even Labour seems to have fallen for the delusion that

> privatisation can pay for

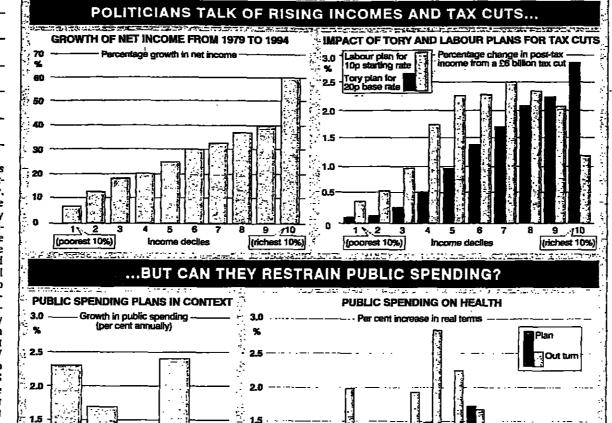
permanent tax cuts

f Britain's television companies took their public service broadcasting obligations really seriously. they would clear an hour of airtime by cancelling a few of their nightly bunfights between sloganising politicians and simply show a video of the brilliant hour-long presentation on the economic issues in the election delivered on Wednesday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The media moguls might find to their surprise that people were more interested in honest information and intelligent comment, simply and articulately presented, than the empty slogans which boringly monopolise the airwaves. But enough of fantasy. I do not own a TV station, so all I can do is try to summarise the salient points of the IFS study and urge readers who want more detail to get a copy of this excellent analysis from the IFS. Here are the most interesting points that struck me.

Taxes have gone up sharply by any conceivable measure since the last election and are now higher than they were in the last year of the last Labour government. All the huge cuts in income tax under the Tories - including the celebrated reduction in the top rate of tax from 83 per cent to 40 per cent — were offset by higher indirect taxes and National Insurance and cuts in allowances, especially for married people. In fact, despite the Tories' low-tax rhetoric, there has only been one year in the entire 18-year Tory period when the total tax burden, as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product, has been lower than it was in 1978-79, when Denis Healey

was still "making the pips sqeak".
What has fallen sharply under the Tories is public spending in relation to GDP. At 40 per cent of GDP, total public spending is now 2 per cent lower than it was in 1978-79. There are two explanations for the paradox that taxes have risen while public spending is taking a smaller slice of the national cake. The first is that the Tories have substantially reduced public borrowing. The second, and less well known, is that the Treasury's revenues from sources other than taxes have collapsed from 4.5 per cent of GDP in 1978-79 to 1.75 per cent. This loss of non-tax revenues, equivalent to E20 billion, is largely because of the removal from the public sector of hugely profitable industries such as telephones. electricity and gas (only partly offset by the exclusion from public spending of the losses of these businesses' financing requirements). In a week when even the Labour leadership seems to have fallen for the Tory delusion that one-off proceeds from privatisation can be used to pay for permanent tax cuts and public spending programmes, this is a timely reminder of the fact that selling off state assets is not a free lunch. Privatisation certainly tends to improve management and raise general economic efficiency. but for the Treasury it can also carry substantial costs.

Despite the clear rise in the tax burden since 1992, average living standards have risen. While the IFS cavills at the precise claim made by John Major that the average family will be £1,100 better off than at the time of the last general election", its main objections are with the substance rather than the statistics. The statistical problem is that the Tories are comparing average real incomes in the



year before the last election (before the largely fraudulent 1992 tax cuts) with projected incomes in the coming year squeezing six years of growth into a five-year parliament. But the more import-

ant objection is quite different.

Real incomes have grown in almost all five-year periods under all governments. In fact, income growth in the past five years has been much lower than in the last two Thatcher governments, although slightly better than in Lady Thatcher's first term, But anyway, can a government really claim that the steady crease in living standards that occurs as a consequence of natural economic growth is entirely due to its wise stewardship? Mr Major clearly thinks so. In the Personal Manifesto he wrote for Wednesday's Times he even claimed credit for the presence of croissants in pavement cases" and the availability of sushi and exotic fruit in our supermarkets". But, as Christopher Giles, an IFS senior economist, said at the briefing on Wednesday, if Mr Major really believes that people must be mad to eject a government which has presided over a growing personal income, he must regard the outcome of the 1979 general election and the subsequent 18 years of Tory rule as a terrible mistake — for real incomes had also grown subsantially between 1974 and 1979.

Moving on to the structure of incomes and taxation, the IFS study has many interesting stories to tell. Firstly, it confirms the dramatic increase in income inequality throughout the Tory period. The richest 10 per cent of households have enjoyed a 59 per cent increase in their real after-tax incomes, while the poorest 10 per cent have gained only 6 per cent (see top left chart). In cash terms, of course, the disparity has been very much larger, since each percentage point means far more money when it applies to a high income than to a meagre pittance. The IFS goes on to

examine the distributional effects of the "aspirations" for tax reform announced by the parties. Both leading parties now say that they want to cut income tax, but there are striking differences in the impact of these proposed cuts — differ-ences remarkably congruent with the class make-up of their target groups of voters. The Tories' have a relatively small scheme to channel money to married couples with non-working wives, which will partly make up for the sharp increase in taxes these families have experienced since the late 1980s. to reduce the standard rate of income tax from 23p to 20p. This would concentrate the great bulk of the benefits among the relatively rich (as illustrated in the top right chart). The Labour aspiration to introduce a new 10p tax band would also help the rich more than the poor, but would produce the biggest benefits (at least in percentage terms). Only the Liberal plans, which would raise the top

The next question is whether any tax cuts are remotely likely in the next parliament, or whether the Liberals are right in insisting that taxes must rise. On this point, the IFS analysis makes even the Liberal warnings seem quite modest. They say that, while public borrowing in 1997-98 now looks likely to hit the target of 2.5 per cent of GDP announced by Kenneth Clarke in the last Budget, the further reductions in deficits planned for the years beyond that are in doubt. This is because the public spending plans on which the future delicit numbers depend are unrealistically low. Specifically, Mr Clarke has assumed that public spending will grow by just 0.6 per cent annually in real terms in each of the four years from 1996-97 to 1999-2000. Even for a Tory government these plans seem

unrealistic, not to say fantastic, as the

rate of income tax to 50p and increase

personal allowances, would redistribute

income from the rich to the poor.

IFS shows by comparing them with the spending growth recorded in the previous four Tory administrations. As shown in the lower chart, public spending grew by an average of 1.1 per cent annually even during the 1987-92 parliament, when growth was rapid. In the present parliament spending has grown by 2.4 per cent a year.

According to the IFS, there are two predominant reasons why spending is bound to grow faster in real terms than either of the main parties assumes. The first is the fact that a third of all public ding goes on wages and inevitably rise in real terms when the economy is growing. The second is the ineluctable growth in health costs. It is simply impossible to restrain health spending growth to less than I per cent annually as Mr Clarke says he will do. The population is ageing, expensive new techniques are constantly being invented and, most importantly in the long-term, the general increase in economic prosperity naturally increases people's expectations about the quality of medical care. Politicians may claim to have all kinds of novel schemes to overcome these forces. but history suggests they should not be believed. As the bottom chart illustrates, government spending on health has massively overshot budget targets in 14

out of the past 15 years.

Finally, one point the IFS does not make. It does not say that public spending problems are caused by Britain's alleged "pensions crisis". On the contrary, it shows that state spending on pensions will decline substantially in the next century. The real problem is not that the state pension will become unaffordable, but simply that it will be too low for anyone to live on. This is a problem which the Government's plan to privatise the basic state pension does not even begin to recognise, much less to address. Ridgmount Street, WCIE 7AE.

## PFI outlook is set fair whoever wins power

Jason Nissé reports on a Tory

policy that until recently was the subject of derision

n the outskirts of Merseyside con-struction is under way on a monument to a policy that was dreamed up by the Conservatives and is now becoming a corner-stone of the policies of the anticipated new Labour administration.

The £80 million prison at Fazakerley is one of three prisons being built under the Private Finance Initiative, a policy that has seen commercial companies funding more than E7 billion of government work in the four years since it was started.

Under the tight spending rules Kenneth Clarke, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, has imposed on Tory ministers. Fazakerley might not have been built without PFI. And given Labour's need to scrimp and save to stay within its spending plans, few can be surprised that Tony Blair is embrac-ing a policy that only a couple of years ago was derided in parliament and in the business community.

Governments around the world are finding it increasily difficult to fund their infrastucture spending plans out of taxes," says lan Watmore, head of government services at Andersen Consulting. "So they are getting the private sector to finance the upfront cost and the public pays for it over a number of years."

As a concept the PFI works much like the way that many companies notably British Airways --

contract great deal of the task that they need to do but do not feel they are good at will start being newspaper group will not deliver

papers. Marks & Spencer does not make the ready meals it sells in its stores, and when you pay with a credit card it is often not your credit card company that processes the

payment. So why not give a third party the contract to, say, process payments to the Inland Revenue or to operate a tram service in Croydon or to build a prison in Merseyside?

The public sector found contracting out these large projects a little difficult at first. The civil servants were used to allocating a budget to a project, awarding it to a contractor and then paying the contractor the extra when there were the inevitable cost overruns. Now that the contractor was taking the risk, it had to be sure that there were no dangers lurking in the project, which led to long and tortuous

negotiations.
"Both the public and private sector had to adapt to a different system of procurement." says Alan Chaney, head of projects at John Laing, the construction group. "We are now learning and this is starting to speed up the process."
In addition, there was an

initial worry that the private sector would have trouble raising the finance to pay for the projects. But the feeling now is that a project of anything up to £500 million will be bankrolled with little difficulty, and that larger projects should have no more trouble than the contruction companies have in funding bid projects anyway - in other words, if the builder is any good and has a reasonable balance sheet it will get the money.

Within the area of information technology, one criticism of PFI has been the amount that has gone to just one firm, Electronic Data Systems, the US group, which has won around £300 million of the £400 million of outsourcing contracts awarded.

The concern, voiced by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee last November, is that this has left government departments - particularly the Inland Revenue and Department of Social Security - too dependent on EDS. A number of large ousourcing contracts are pending, with a large Benefits Agency deal due to be awarded within weeks of a new government

coming into power.
Within the private sector the belief is that where PFI has worked - and most mention roads and prisons - it is because there has been one body allocating all the contracts. Where it is still caught up in the mire or has hardly started at all - health and education come to mind - the government side has a highly devolved structure.

The health service is seen as the largest problem area. So far around £500 million of hospital contracts have been awarded, but this is just a handful of the projects outstanding.

It is only a

slight hiatus.

The contracts

signed again

come May 2

There more than new tenders nending from a ramp

tals in Durham, Barnet and Worcester. Some of these have run into special difficulties when it was discovered that the charter for the National Health Service trusts did not

allow them to authorise the projects. Here Labour should actually speed the process. It is committed to taking away a great deal of the bureaucracy in the health service, and this is bound to mean amal-

gamating trusts. Rees Griffiths, the deputy chief executive of the Private Finance Panel, says that this will help with the allocation and approval of projects. "The slowness of PFI in hospitals has been because the structure of the NHS does not make procurement easy," he said.

For Labour, PFI is not an ideology, as it was for the Tories, but a practical expedient. Where it saves money and makes financial sense Labour will do it. Where it is bringing in the private sec-tor for the private sector's sake, Labour will say no.

Mr Griffiths expects a Labour government to be much more rigorous in deciding whether any project fits with its policy objectives before going ahead, but expects no letting up on the PFI bandwagon.

"The functionaries may have dropped their quills while the election is on, but it is only a slight hiatus and the contracts will start being signed again come May 2." Mr Griffiths said.

## Britain's digital-TV drive faces delay

Britain's world-beating push to make digital-TV part of every-day life is losing manager. There is more and more evidence the hundreds of film, sport and entertainment channels that it can provide will not be available before the end of the year.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that has been digital TV's driving force, had hoped to launch a digital business by this autumn. The goal was to flood the high street electronics stores with digital set-top boxes, the devices that decode the satellite signals, before the Christmas buying spree.

The autumn deadline now appears

ambitious and the City reckons the digital systems are more likely to be in place early next year. Any later would be disastrous because BSkyB wants to promote its digital sports channels before the summer of 1998 when France is to host football's World Cup, the biggest viewing event of the decade. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The

launch plans. Its last public comments were in February when it said it was on the verge of placing orders for as many as a million set-top boxes at a cost of £500 million or more. But none of the potential set-top box makers - Amstrad and Pace Micro Technology, among them - has signed production contracts and time is run-

ning short if they are to be delivered well before Christmas. The companies

have said it would take six to nine

Times, has gone curiously quiet on its



Don Cruickshank, Oftel's Director-General, wants to ensure fair competition

months to get the boxes to retailers. City analysts said they would be surprised if BSkyB hit the autumn target. Richard Dale, of Salomon Bros. the securities house, said: "There are a number of issues that need to be resolved, ranging from the set-top box subsidies to buying pay-per-view rights, which may or may not allow BSkyB to launch this year."

Matters began to bog down late last year when Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, made it clear that it would set strict rules under which broadcasters gained access to the settop boxes' conditional-systems - the technology that ensures that only paid- or so, against a factory price of £500.

up subscribers can receive the channels. Broadcasters such as the BBC feared that BSkyB, which is already dominant in the subscription-TV business, would go on to control the digital-TV market and dictate set-top box access on its own terms.

It was not until last month that the final access guidelines were published. Don Cruickshank, Oftel's director-general, said that it would not tolerate any attempt to restrict access to the systems. The goal is to ensure fair competition." he said. An even more crucial task was devising a scheme to subsidise the settop boxes to allow a retail price of £200

boxes generate strong sales. In Germany and Italy, where the boxes are so expensive as to be considered luxury items, digital TV penetration is

BSkyB did not have the financial muscle to pay the whole subsidy bill and decided to recruit British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics maker, as partners. They are to form the Interactive Services Company (Isco) with BSkyB. Their collective investment, estimated at £400 million, will be used to subsidise the boxes over the next three years. In return, they are to share in the revenue generated by the interactive services, such as home banking.

People close to the talks to form Isco said disagreements have ranged from the level of investment that each investor is to contribute to the technical specifications of the boxes. Another problem arose in January when BSkyB, Carlton and Granada unveiled plans to launch a digital terrestrial TV company in 1998. The announcement made BT, Midland Bank and Matsushita wonder why BSkyB was

backing two horses in the race. It is understood that the biggest Isco hurdles have pretty much been resolved, but, as any seasoned negotiator knows, the devil is in the details. Couch potatoes should not get their hopes up for a 200-channel viewing bonanza by

ERIC REGULY

#### The European Parliament

ounces that it has issued an open call for tenders relating to furniture for the bars and restaurants of the Espace Léopold building in Brussels, Rue WIERTZ The total contract, subdivided into lots, is for 588 tables, 2093 chairs, 60 screens, 4 service units. 6 sideboards and 2 drinks trolleys.

The notice to appear in the Official Journal of the European Communities was sent to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities on 05/03/97

The contract conditions may be requested by fax sent for the attention of the Equipment Service, BAK Building, Room 4/67 at L-2929 Luxembourg Fax No (+352) 4300 4918 quoting reference 'A. O Bars et restaurants'

The deadline for the submission of tenders is 30/04/97

#### Trade hit by slower growth in Asia

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA

GROWTH in world goods trade, hit by a slowdown in Asian economies and continuing low demand in Western Europe, dropped to 4 per cent last year from 8 per cent. the World Trade Organisation annual review has reported.

However, the WTO predicted a modest increase this year over the 1996 performance if an expected overall recovery in the two key regions was confirmed. The report found Latin America, with a growth in export volume of Il per cent, led by a strong 20 per cent surge from Mexico, and North America with 5.5 per cent, running well ahead of the

global average.

The study, based on preliminary figures, described Asia's export growth of only 2.5 per cent as surprising. It was the lowest among world regions and was well down on the 5 per cent output growth for the Asian area.

Around the world, trade growth has consistently outpaced output growth over the past decade. But Richard Blackhurst, chief economist of the WTO, said that he saw the decline in Asia as cyclical. He added: "I see no fundamental change in Asian economies that would have caused it."

The global growth percentage was 3 per cent lower than that the WTO predicted early last year, and I per cent down on a forecast it issued last December at its ministerial meeting in Singapore. Also down was the growth rate of the American dollar value of trade in commercial services, from banking and insurance to transport and tourism, which dropped to about 5 per cent from 14 per cent. Compiled by WTO eco-

nomic analysts, the report noted that last year's growth in goods trade volume was in line with the average for the first four years of the decade.



Tony Wardell, says the restructuring last year has allowed Swallowfield to re-present its capabilities to big customers across Europe

## Go-ahead for £2.5bn North Sea gasfields

THE North Sea oil industry received an important boost yesterday when the Government approved the development of three gasfields at an estimated total cost of about £2.5 billion.

The Department of Trade and Industry gave its consent for the £1.5 billion development of the Elgin and Franklin gas condensate fields by Elf Aquitaine, of France, the operator. Consent was also given for the £714 million development of the Shearwater gas conden-

sate field in the central North Sea by Shell UK Exploration and Production (Shell Expro). operator for Shell. Esso and a number of other companies. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Energy Minister, also gave

approval for the construction of a pipeline linking the three neighbouring fields, located about 143 miles east of Aberdeen, to an existing terminal at Bacton. Norfolk. The pipeline, named the Shearwater and Elgin Area Line (SEAL), will be the longest on the UK continental shelf at 288 miles.

From Bacton the gas will be sent to the TransCo National Transmission System (NTS) and to Europe through the Bacton to Zeebrugge inter-connector pipeline. Construction is expected to begin in 1998 with first gas expected to flow in 2000.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**ELECTION 97 READER FORUM** 

YOUR CHANCE TO

MEET JOHN MAJOR

The Prime Minister will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The

event, to be held in central London on Tuesday, April 15, will take place between 8pm amd 9,30pm

Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7,50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). To book your tickets simply telephone First Call on 0171-420 0000. Lines are

open 24 hours. There is no booking fee. All major credit and payment cards are accepted

The developments are likely to provide millions of pounds of work for British companies. particularly for shipyards in

the North East of England. About 80 per cent of the contracts are expected to be awarded to UK companies.

The field's facilities are being developed by an alliance formed by Amec, the UK construction company, and Heerema. The design, construction and installation contracts for the platform are worth £350 million. The main part of the work

will be carried out at Amec's yard in Wallsend, Tyneside, and Heerema's yard in Hartlepool, while the main substructure is being made at Heerema's yard in The Netherlands. A separate £20 million contract for the design and construction of the wellhead jacket was awarded to

Next Tuesday is your

John Major what you

government. You can

also ask him what he

more years in power.

readers of The Times

Times to have a say

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This is a unique

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think about his

SLP Engineering Teesside last October, □ Ranger Oil, the North

Cosmetics

group aided

by facelift

By Fraser Nelson

POPULARITY of make-up

pencils and shaving gel helped Swallowfield, the cos-

metics and toiletries producer,

to return its strongest results

The company, Europe's larg-est producer of cosmetic pen-

cils, reaped the benefits of its

restructuring last year as pre-

tax profits rose 31 per cent to

E3.52 million on sales ahead 17

Tony Wardell, managing di-

rector, said: "Restructuring has

not only helped us to put our

house in better working order,

but has provided us with the

perfect opportunity to re-

present our capabilities to ma-

The success of cosmetic gift

or customers across Europe."

sets resulted in the strongest

year so far for its pencil

production factory, which lift-

ed production 21 per cent over

the year, and sales by 26 per

The company spent £2 mil-

lion on production improvements over the year, and took on an extra 100 workers -

mostly in middle manage-ment — to lift its total workforce to 800.

The advance of shaving gel over shaving foam helped its aerosols division to lift sales

Overall, earnings were 18.1p

(13.Sp) a share. A final divi-

dend of 4.3p, due on May 30,

lifts the final to 7.3p (6.5p).

19 per cent to £26.2 million.

cent, to £14.2 million.

per cent to £43.4 million.

in 1996.

American energy company with substantial UK interests. has agreed to acquire an additional 20 per cent interest in the Ranger-operated Kyle oil discovery from Mobil North Sea. The extra interest increases Ranger's total holding to 40 per cent.

The Kyle discovery has produced oil from three wells during tests undertaken last year. This year Ranger will conduct extended well tests similar to those used in the appraisal of the Pierce and Banff fields, also in the North Sea. If the appraisal programme is successful, production could begin in 1999.

#### **Japanese** bank plans **US** alliance

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

NIPPON Credit Bank, the heavily indebted Japanese financial institution, is forming an alliance with America's agreed to securitise some of its loans, turning them into stocks or bonds that are sold to

outside investors.

The tie-up will also enable NCB to maintain services to its customers after its planned withdrawal from overseas business, the two banks said. NCB said that it would also consider a capital tie-up with Bankers Trust, which is on an expansion drive.

NCB, with a heavy load of real estate loans left from the asset bubble of the 1980s, has been considered the most endangered large bank in Ja-pan's faltering banking sector. On April I it announced that it was retreating from the international arena and that it was selling prime real estate and floating new shares to try to rebuild its capital base.

The Tokyo stock market took the news well, with an increase in buying interest in the debentures that NCB uses to raise the bulk of its cash.

#### Rentals in **America boost Hertz**

HERTZ, the car rental division of Ford, posted record profits of \$19.7 million in the first quarter of 1997, more than double the \$8.8 million for the same period last year. The increase was mainly because of higher revenues in its US car rental operations, Hertz said.

The company, the largest car rental business in the world, achieved record revenues of \$878.4 million in the first quarter, up \$75.3 million from the same period last

It said revenues from its car rental operations were \$758.5 million, up \$67.8 million, as the number of transactions and revenue per transaction increased, mainly in the US market.

## BUSINESS ROUNDED NA

### **US** approval lifts Biocompatibles

THE market value of Biocompatibles International headed towards £900 million yesterday after the medical coatings company secured US approval for its soft contact lens. Biocompatibles plans to launch its Proclear Compatibles lens almost immediately, after its launch in the UK and northern Europe in February. The lens is intended to be replaced monthly, and is coated with the Biocompatibles biominetic PC coating, which offers greater resistance to dehydration

and the formation of deposits.

The company sold only £5 million of lenses last year, but its shares have risen strongly because of the numerous potential uses of PC. Yesterday, the shares added another 67½p to reach £13.60. Biocompatibles has already assembled a US marketing team of 38 people. The company said that the soft lens market in the US was worth \$800 million, and frequent replacement lenses were one of the fastest growing segments.

#### Rathbones advances

RATHBONE BROTHERS, the investment manager and private banker, lifted pre-tax profit to £9.6 million in 1996 (£7.4 million). Earnings were swelled by the purchase of Neilson Cobbold, the Liverpool fund manager. The combined group manages £4 billion. Turnover was £35.8 million (£28 million). Earnings per share were 24.9p (21.3p). A final dividend of 7.5p is due on May 16, making 11.5p for the year (10p). Mickey Ingall, chief executive, will succeed Oliver Stanley as chairman on May-7.

#### Irish relief on inflation

IRISH CENTRAL BANK worries about inflationary pressures in the Republic's booming economy were soothed yesterday with the announcement that consumer prices in March rose just 0.1 per cent. The Central Statistics Office figures show that inflation over the 13 months since February 1996 was running at 1.6 per cent, well below the Government target. The March figures show that increases in the cost of clothing and footwear were offset by a fall in the price of fuel and lighting.

#### Media buyer confident

CIA GROUP, Europe's second largest independent media buyer, said it was confident that it could become one of the world's top six industry players within four years. The company posted a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional items, to £7.5 million, on turnover of £774 million, up 28 per cent, in the year to December 31. After exceptionals, pretax profits came to £4.9 million, or 3.23p (7.65p) a share. A final dividend of 1.77p makes a total of 2.35p, up 9 per cent.

#### AIB stake in Poland

ALLIED IRISH BANKS has acquired a 9.4 per cent interest in Poland's Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy (WBK) from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for Ir£18.9 million. AIB said that the transaction was part of an option agreement it has with EBRD, giving it the right to acquire EBRD's 23.9 per cent stake in WBK. The option is being exercised in two stages, with AIB to bid for the rest of EBRD's shares in WBK soon.

#### Avocet buys Damar

AVOCET, the gold mining group, is to pay £2.3 million in shares for a 60 per cent controlling interest in Damar Consolidated Exploration, the Malaysian company. Avocet has also taken an option over a further 36.8 per cent of Damar that can be exercised at any time over the next two years. Avocet is issuing 1.1 million ordinary shares to pay for the stake. Avocet shares remained unchanged at 211p

#### Tracker Network ahead

TRACKER NETWORK, maker of stolen vehicle tracking devices, yesterday announced its first annual profit of £210,000 before tax, reversing a previous loss of £1.61 million in 1995. The AIM-quoted company reported a 22 per cent increase in turnover to £10.4 million. Tracker said the police have made more than 650 arrests by using their system. Ralph Kanter, the chairman, said that he expects the company to pay its first dividend this year.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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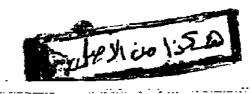
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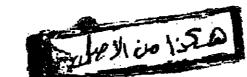
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EARCLAYS (MRCORN LTD  O'RS1 522, 4000  Delta R. Inc Inc.  400,90  490,30  - 0.10  2.07  Exemple  90,74  90,74  95,73  90,74  90,	(aller American 37 11 32-43 + 423 Pacific E236 E7-51 + 0.05 Pacific 23 23 24 10c - 0.07 7-47	2006 Limited Set	© 0800 24 24 24  For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Prespost, Leeds	OLD MUTTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 91256 789 698	US Str Car 2524 5640 - 0.05 1.04 US Gaustin 225.70 201101 - 1.59 SCH-polest until TRUST 255.70 201101 - 1.59 SCH-polest until TRUST 255.540 256.540	Asian 6 Operant 6   12 02   33 02   - 0.70   140
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SHITAMBA FLAD MCRS LTD   CF   CF   CF   CF   CF   CF   CF   C	High Income 27 or 20037 + Qub 2.37 Income Plas 142 to 13.1707 + 4.08 2.37 Engeles locure 53.65 57.00 + 0.12 2.39 UK (the Grid 34.01 35.17† + Qub 2.31 Enable Flats	GLINNESS FLIGHT UT MISRS LTD	1 FRAN A REPORTAL DUT MICROS 1 TO Emerging Miles 14470 155-60 +0.200	2.73 id Grants hr. 778.95 778.99 064 277 de-Accord 773.50 787.52 064 275 295 778.90 064 275 275 275 275 275 275 275 275 275 275	-to-Acces 67 79 70 61 - 0.33 0.45	THORRETON LAST MANAGERS 1 TO 0171 248 2000 Dealers 0171 246 2001
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■ VISUAL ART

The roots of Picasso's originality are revealed in a revelatory Washington show



**THEATRE** 1

Election cering, Flaubert-style: Paul Godfrey's The Candidate completes a master's fragment





THEATRE 2

Bernard Levin visits Waste at the Old Vic, and finds sleazy relevance in every line



■ THEATRE 3

In Dublin the Gate continues its Pinter festival with a fine revival of The Collection

## La vie in blue and rose

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle visits a stunning exhibition in Washington of paintings by the young Picasso

he exhibition of Picasso's early paintings that has just opened in Washington is one of the most revelatory shows to be seen this year. It explores, for the first time on such a broad scale. the roots of his originality, and his progression from gifted adolescent to the status of exceptional artist gives it an impetus that raises it above the biographical.

Throughout Picasso's adolescence and late teens, it is something of a game to spot which artist he is imitating and then discarding. It must have been a game, albeit serious, to Picasso too. He takes on the Spanish Old Masters: Goya, Velázquez, Ribera, Murillo and (most importantly) El Greco; and then the more recent masters: Menzel, Steinlen, Toulouse-Lautrer, Corot, Aubrey Beardsley, Kirschner, Burne-Jones, Van Gogh, Puvis de Cha-

vannes. One by one, he explores their art and subject matter, their possibilities and limitations, but it is not until he gets into the Blue Period, around 1901, that we see Picasso thinking for himself.

The Blue Period paintings have been dismissed as facile and selfindulgent, wallowing in a depressive milieu of prostitutes and beggars. On the contrary, this was a crucial phase for Picasso. The draining out of colour until only the blues are left and the concentration on line left him free to construct the intellectual armature of his art. There is no reason to doubt Picasso's misery. He was poor, sometimes ill, his paintings were barely selling, and his friend Casagemas committed suicide in 1901. Unable to consummate an affair with Germaine Gargallo, a girl with whom Picasso had set him up, Casagemas shot himself in the head after having tried, unsuccessfully, to shoot her. Out of feelings of guilt or compassion, Picasso evolved La Vie. with Casagemas as its central figure. Paradoxically, the ambiguity of

this work is its key, and the key for much of the Blue Period. Although the composition is awkward, and the nature of the confrontation between Casagemas with his naked mistress standing on the left, and the tall, stern mother and baby standing on the right, is unresolved. Picasso demonstrates here for the first time the essential quality of his inspiration. Set in the studio (two canvases propped against the back wall depict Gauguin-like figures of crouching Owomen), La Vie is as much a painting about painting as about the cycle of life, or Casagemas, or impotence. John Richardson, whose second volume of A Life of Picasso was recently published, has pointed out that Picasso and his poet friend Max Jacob were fascinated by tarot cards, and the element of chance they impose on everyday life. Something

of this mystical belief now entered Picasso's mind and his art.

From here onwards, into Cubism and beyond, Picasso uses this ambiguity - the apparently random combination of images in a painting to invest his works with an inspired authority. Picasso claimed that this art of combining was something that he did almost unconsciously, but the exhibition makes apparent how he built up his armoury of visual sources: first by taking from other artists, then by using his own life as subject matter, then by pushing backwards through time to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians as well as early Iberia, and then by using all this to take art

While forging his own art, Picasso was relatively unaffected by Fauvism and the influence of Cezanne. His constant toings and froings between Paris and Barcelona, until he settled in the Bateau Lavoir studio in Montmartre in 1904, tied him to no particular style. In the Bateau Lavoir, Picasso met another artist, Fernande Olivier, who was to be his mistress until 1912. Her arrival coincided with a change in Picasso's palette as he entered the Rose Period and began to paint some of his most beautiful and

s a prelude Picasso excluded colour almost entirely. The superb etching The Frugal Repast, of a young but emaciated couple with thin, attenuated limbs and eloquent hands, is hatched all over with the most delicate lines. The same physiognomy, and the blindness of the man, is repeated in Woman Ironing, an oil painting in shades of grey with hatched brushstrokes. The angularity of her pose is brutal, but there is a tenderness here that replaces the sentimentality of the works in blue. The pinks that arrive with Fernande and the pictures of harlequins are more like pale terracotta. At the same time, a young child in a twisting Renaissance pose appears in Harlequin's Family with an Ape.

The Boy with a Pipe, his head

wreathed in roses, and the Woman with a Fan, viewed in profile with one hand held up in a hieratic gesture from an Assyrian relief, are the first masterpieces of the Rose Period. With these introspective, androgynous adolescents, Picasso masters the psychological intensity needed to animate the monumental nudes that came out of the summer of 1906 that Picasso and Fernande spent in Gósol, in the Spanish Pyrenees. From Gósol also came the mask-like faces that Picasso gave to his portrait of Gertrude Stein and his self-portrait (with which this exhibition ends). Despite the beauty of many of the

paintings, we can see that Picasso, up



Picasso's La Vie (1903), after the suicide of his friend Casagemas, contains the key to his Blue Period

to this point, was not so much interested in handling paint as ideas. Lapses in taste and botched compositions are forgivable because they are problems without which no advances could be made. We know that the evolution of Picasso's art. from the unexceptional oil sketch of The Little

Picador, at age II, to the end of the Rose Period, when Picasso was 25, promises much more. Immediately on the horizon is the Demoiselles d'Avignon (finished in November 1907), which has been seen as the beginning of Modernism - the first painting of 20th-century art.

Picasso: The Early Years, 1892-1906 is at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC until July 21, sponsored by Bell Atlantic (202 842 6713 for details of Atlanne (202 842 6713 for actuals by advance entry passes). Then at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Sept 10 to Jan 4 1998. Nearly 30 of these paintings are only to be seen on the Washington leg. The exhibition is not travelling to Europe.

"Vive Rousselin"? Why, with a panicky mumble of: "But I

## Not such a Tory canyon

SECOND OPINION: The human

politics of Waste resonate with

Bernard Levin over 90 years

lirst things first. Sir fun. Granville Barker was a playwright of considerable the Old Vic (believe it quality; his finest work was or not, there was a cabbie who had not heard of it), and the omens are good. Indeed they are splendid; the night I went, the Vic was packed solid, with not a seat

Hall is offering a dozen plays — some well known. some new -- from mid-March to early November. I salute him, and wish him

The first play is Waste, by Granville Barker, pub-

lished first in 1907, and instantly banned by the Lord Chamberlain. **6** The play (Young people must prepare to is about gasp: there was a sleaze, that name, and no play could be

put on in Britain

without the Lord

liars, money and Chamberlain's yea: it lasted un-til 1968.) crooks 🤊 Now for the

fun. Waste is a play about politics: to be exact, Tory politics. To be even more exact, the play is about Tory sleaze, Tory booze, Tory liars, Tory fornication, Tory money and plain Tory crooks.

For instance ... "the Tories . . . have a clever plan to trash the Liberals for years to come by stealing items of their traditional programme ... " No doubt the Tories would do such things, but those words were actually written in

Again, "Major is standing on a knife-edge Parliament without a working majority?" Who? Why, John Major of course. No. not Major, but a gentleman who says: "The ruling oligarchy is contemptuous of the electorate and terrified of public opinion ... " Who said it? Granville Barker, in

Ah, but the best is to

The Tory leader is expecting to be called to form a government ... "but he is threatened by a devastating sexual scandal". (Actually, several devastating sexual scandals.)

But now I have had my

The Madras House. Yet he is passed over: I don't remember when a Granville Barker play was last seen in the first-rank the-atre. (You may say that George Bernard Shaw is in the dusk, but he, certainly,

will come back.) Hall surely chose Waste because it was election year: I don't know whether it was to be amazed by politicians, or to despise them. Proba-bly both. At least Granville Barker had his tongue in his

cheek when he discussed politicians: "We poor politicians must work doublebread-and-butter while we are in opposition. It's hardly safe when you are in office to hold on to a share -much less a directorship.

How's wretched capitalist to live?" But today, there are almost no wry smiles at all when the conversation turns to serious politics. Waste is well named. Hall sums up with: "It demonstrated that there was little place for ideals in politics: what mattered was the possible — and more than that, the deal that made the possible, possible."

ome back to the play. There is the fly-by-night girl who dies under the illegal knife; there is much accidental irony in this story, because today an abortion is hardly more than a haircut.

Waste is surely what it means. A death or two; a twist of the coroner's wrist; one shoddy politician and another one; how close 1907 is to 1997! What's the difference today? The scandal is soothed away. Someone says phew, and all is over. And all is quiet, too.

When I was 17 I wanted, seriously, to be a politician, and indeed to sit in the House of Commons. By 19, I had dropped the idea, but sometimes, looking back, I shudder in my sleep.

THEATRE: Paul Godfrey's timely political satire, a long way after Flaubert; plus marital complexities in a powerful Pinter revival

## Vote for **Donald Duck**

he parliamentary candi-date at the core of Paul Godfrey's play is a mod-rate. He is also, he says, a realist and a pragmatist. He tries to please the Right and the Left and when he is accused of being all things to all men, asks why he should have fixed opinions at all. "I am prepared to embrace contradictions. I believe in political relativism."

In other words, this is a candidate highly likely to succeed on May I. But Godfrey's would-be parliamentarian is a rich bourgeois called Rous-selin, and is standing in a byelection in the France of 1870. A would-be dramatist called Gustave Flaubert invented the character, but abandoned the drama he had provisionally titled Le Candidat.

The Candidate Royal Exchange, Manchester

"I wrote a new play, the one I would have liked him to have written," explains Godfrey in the programme. That is a worthy aim and a timely ambition. But the result kept reminding me of a cartoon projected at too high a speed. What might be a telling neo-Jonsonian satire bangs along in so hectic a way you some-times wonder if Donald Duck isn't standing against Speedy Gonzalez.

James Saxon's Rousselin is a bearded hulk in a green jacket but, mentally speaking, a vast empty space. He is also



James Saxon as the heavyweight contender, Rousselin

surrounded by corrupt, selfserving people. A penniless aristocrat will deliver the ploughmen's vote if his dim son gets Rousselin's daughter in exchange, and, when this offer is disdained, decides to stand for Parliament himself. A grumpy "old leftie" called

Gruchet will withdraw his candidature only if Rousselin cancels a long-standing debt. And a spread of citizens gathers in Rousselin's garden, demanding everything from the abolition of tax on booze to ponies for their children. The funniest scene comes

chillian rhetoric. But then it's back to the hustings hubbub, with the same citizens relaunching their selfish de-mands and exposing Rousselin as a chap who would endorse the compulsory sale of grannies, starting with his own, if it served his purpose. Such a picture wouldn't be complete without a little sexu-

early in the second act, when

Saxon prepares for "Question Time" in the local marketplace

by practising his ultra-sophis-

ticated sneers and proto-Chur-

al sleaze and a bit of newspaper manipulation. Both duly come in the form of an editor who rewrites Rousselin's idiocies ("we won't let reality stand in our way") in order to seduce his wife. Energy is not lacking either in Godfrey's text or in Braham Murray's cast. But the evening could be wittier, and might be more scathing if both men gave themselves time to pause and probe.

Still, the final image is effective enough. I don't think I'm betraying impenetrable secrets if I reveal that left-wing envy and right-wing greed don't know what to do now." I combine to give the protago-nist a win. And how does he suspect there will be British MPs privately saying much the same, come May 2. react when his supporters launch into jubilant yells of

BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE** 

On page 36: literature. music, dance, and a profile of the new man at the ICA

## Pinter through the looking glass

omething has happened. But then again, maybe it hasn't. Not much more than this is clear after 55 minutes in the company of Harold Pinter's The Collection, the short, intricate, witty and malevolent work that kicks off the second instalment of the Gate's festival of the

playwright's work. A husband (played by Gerard McSorley) feels that his wife may have been involved in some bedroom-hopping in a hotel in Leeds. He seeks out the man he suspects of inspiring her bout of adultery, only

to discover his marriage mirrored in the complicated, dis-jointed relationship of Frank McCusker's tricky, selfish Bill. and Pinter's own supportive but acid Harry.

If Pinter's mirroring is brash at the macro level, up close it verges on slapstick. While Ingrid Craigie's feline Stella reclines on a snowy, polar couch, stroking a tiny white kitten, the boys play with knives, dangling them nonchalantly or spraying out lines about grasping them firmly "to the hilt".

Pinter's symmetrical print-

Collection Gate, Dublin

ed circuits of dialogue allow power to surge backwards and forwards, flashing viciously off in one direction, only to meet a dead end. Conversation is a perpetual struggle for dominance, a clawing and biting fight for a moment's purchase on the truth.

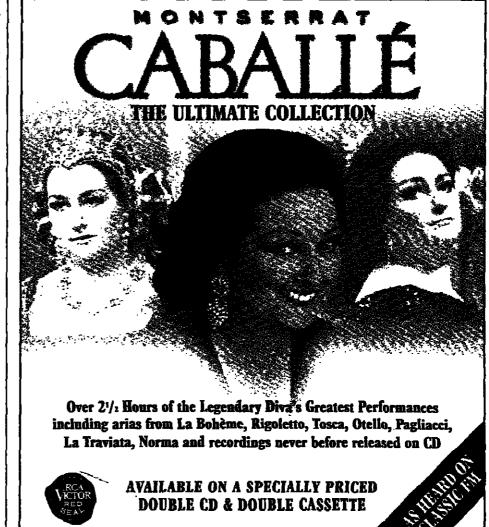
Characters are accordingly fluid, even fragmented. Craigie is often left silent on stage. and span revival: not blazing offering little more than a with desire to uncover a new

dozing suggestion of female sexuality, while other characters flip-flop from waggish jousting to psychotic knife throwing. McSorley and McCusker have plenty of precision, but do not expend energy in pursuit of specious resolutions to their characters' emotional enigmas. Significantly, it is Pinter's own dependable Harold who comes closest to bundling his contradictory traits and moods into a stable personality.

The production is a spick

vision of Pinter's drama, but gently lit by something that approaches - though never quite slips into - reverence. Frank Hallinan Flood's set of two interlocking naturalistic spaces makes a neat arena for Pinter's existential sit-com. Alan Stanford's chill, drawling direction leaves plenty of gaps for the audience to cough into, but always seems to know where it ought to be going, and at what speed - a rare dash of certainty in this frightening hall of mirrors.

LUKE CLANCY





CHOICE 1

Juliet Stevenson plays Grusha in The Caucasian Chalk Circle

VENUE: Previews begin tonight at the Olivier



**CHOICE 2** 

From father to son: Maxim conducts music by Dmitri Shostakovich VENUE: Sunday at the Festival Hall

own compositions, together with an edectic programme of music that ranges from Ravel and Debussy to Carla Bley and Michael Nyman. St David's Hell, The Hayes (01222 878444). Tornonow, 7.30pm. [5]

SOUTHAMPTON: The central character of Ivan Manchell's new cornedy, The Surprise Party, is a

pessimistic insurance salerman whose roller-staing griffment intes to cheer him up, aded by uncles, aunts and a box of balloons. Nutfleetd, University Road (01703 671771). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens April 15, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Sat (May 3), 2.30pm. Lintil May 3.

en Arte Centre: Dan Graham

Camden Arts Centre: Dan Grahem:
Architecture 1 (0171-435 2843).
Cosamercial: Clement Page (0171-247 9747)... Curwen: Marjan Woude:
"Throe the Life ..." (0177-636 1459)
Dufwich Picture: The Inner Eye: Art
Beyond the Visitie (0181-633 5254)
Haryward: Material Culture: The Object
of Bitish Art of the 1980s and 1980s
(0171-928 3144)... Lieses: Christine
Borland (opens tornorow) (0177-724
2739)... National: London's Monets
61717-747 2895)... RIBBA Helre:

2739) ... Nationat: London's Monets (0171-747 2885) ... RIBA Heinz: Clough Williams-Blis: Architect Errant (0171-580 5533) ... Tate: Luciano Fabro (0171-897 8000) ... White-chapet: Antechamber (0171-622 7888)

LONDON GALLERIES

simistic insurance sale





POP 1

Come on home: Boz Scaggs is alive and well and back in the biz after a lengthy sabbatical



POP 2

Howl of the devil: Preacher Boy rasps and shakes his way through an epic Borderline gig

#### LONDON

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE: The Ouver is transformed into a "theat in the round" for Symon McBurney's ction of Brecht's less impo work, Juhot Stevenson olavs Grusha

with McBurney as the ingenious judge. Actions (Clinter), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Previews begin lonight, 7.15pm; mat Sat (April 19), 2pm Opens April 21, 7pm. Then in rep.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL: A London Arts Calé exhibition which aims to capture Case entibition which aims to capture the excitement and unique aesthetics of takes such as London, New York, Bombay and Chicago, in pancrames by artists including Jino Osuge, Richard Calbert and Michael Heindorff.

The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, EC1. Today-Sunday, April 18-20 and 25-27, noon-6pm. Until April 27

CHILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE: GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE:
The Ensemble celebrases as 15th anniversary with three concerts (today. Monday and April 18) This evening's rectal includes the world premiere of a new commission by John Woolrich, titled Birthday Piece — the First Lest, lollowed by Barrish shappschord Concerto in E and Brandenburg Concertos Nos 6 and 4. The programme ends with Stravnishy's Concerto in D and Applich. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street (0171-935 2141) Tonight, 7.30pm.

[] THE COMIC MYSTERIES John Retallack's celebrated production of Dario Fo's Misterio Buffix New Testament tales delivered in commedia dell'arte style.

Greenwich, Cooms Hill, SE10 (0181-

858 7755), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue (April 15), Sat, 2.30pm. CI EAST IS EAST' Second West End showing for Ayub Khan-Din's highly enjoyable tarrily drama. Royal Court Downstains (Duke of Hoyar Court Downsams (Line of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3.30pm. Until May 24.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR: Micheál MacLismmötr's celebrated tribute to Wilde: movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the wit, the gravity, the distress. Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mals Wed and Sat, 3pm.

III IVANOV: Raiph Flennes heads a splendid cast in Jonethen Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359

4404), Final performances tonight, 7.30pm, and tomorrow, 3pm, 7.30pm. ☐ NOISE: Teenage newly-weds move into a flet next to a techno manac. Mark Brickmen directs Alex Jones's play. Sobo Theatre at 21 Dean Street, W1

POPCORN: Ben Elton's blistering comedy about move wolence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his come-

BIT'S AND PRECES (15). Dawn to dusk

ABC Series Centre (0171-439 4470) Everymen (0171-435 1525)

CITIZEN KANE (U): Orson Welles's

Ramboyant examination of the America dream, first released in 1941. ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

Minor technical improvements, otherwis the same Star Wars sequel as before. With Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark

Hernill, Oirector, Irvin Kenshner ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772)

10thenhem Crt. Hd (0171-636 6148) Odeons: Kensingston (0181-315 4214) Leicester Square (0181-315 4216) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0980 888990) Virgin Futhem Roed (0171-377 2321)

MANDELA (PG) Reverential documentary about Nelson Mandela, directed by Jo Menett and Angus

Gate 👸 (0171-727 4043) Filtzy (0171-

THE PEOPLE VS LARRY FLYNT

(18): Rotercoaster rice through the life and court cases of the millionaire

and court cases of the maioreare pomographer, played by Woody Harrelson. Director, Milos Forman Ctephram Picther House (0171-498 3323) Odeon Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Virgins: Chelses (0171-352

Tottenhem Crt Rd (0171-636 614)

on of the American

in Rome: a fascinating tapestry of modern life from director Antone

NEW RELEASES

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

SHOSTAKOVICH CONDUCTS SHOSTAKOVICH: Maxim Shostakovich conducts the Philharmonia Orchastra in music by his latther, Dimiert Festival Overture, Symphony No 5 and Wolin Concerto No 1 (Igor Oistrakh). Feetival Hell, South Benk SE1 (0171-960 4242). Sunday, 7.30pm [5]

ELSEWHERE MINGHAM: larris Xenakis's Zythos is given its world premiere by the Swedish percussion group Kroumata, in the first of two concerts this weekend as part of the Birmingham
Contemporary Nusic Group's new
Frustic and juzz season, The Series, in
the second concert, on Sunday, Eiger
Howarth conducts the BCMG in music
by Swedish composers Folke Rabe and
Kann Rehnqvist, the world premiere of
Jan Sandström's Carrios de la Mancha,
and two pieces by Hartson Bartwistle. as part of the Blev

5622). Tonight and Sunday, 7.30pm. CARDIFF: Sarophonists Andy Sheppard and John Harle perform their

and two pieces by Harrison Birtwistle. Adrian Boult Hall, Birminghem Conservatoire, Paradise Place (0121-236

THEATRE GUIDE leremy Kingston's ass of theatre showing in

uppence when a couple of serial tillers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dens Devis) blame him for their miscledes. Laurence Boswell directs. Apolito, Shaffesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, Born; mats Wind Jane and Sat America.

Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm. N RHINOCEROS: Citizens of a at HomeOct-Procs: Citizens or a French town start furning into thinos: timely revival of lonesco's absurdist fable, his warning against the streact of lascare. Andrea Brooks directs. Riverside Studies, Crisp Road, 1985 (1986) (1986) (1986) (1986) Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255)

Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until April 20. ☐ ROMANCE, ROMANCE: Musical double-bill by Benry Harman and Keith Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island.
Gelegud, Shaflesbury Avenue, WT
(0171-494 5085), Mon-Set, Spm; mats

TOM AND CLEM: Michael Gambon plays the flamboyantly indiscreet Tom Uniberg and Alec McCowen the newly

CINEMA GUIDE

films in London and (where indicated with the symbol •) on release across the country

5096) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Trocadero (5) (0171-434 0031) Warner

t End (0171-437 4343)

TOTAL ECLIPSE (18) Tortured lives of poets Rimbaud and Verlaine. Uneditying version of Christopher

ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

TWIN TOWN (18): Crime and revenge in Swansea. Rough, rude and cruel comedy from TV actor Kevin Allen.

Gate (0171-727 4043) Pinzze (0990 688990) Rilizy (0171-737 2121) Scree on the Green (0171-226 5520) UCI Whiteleys (0990-888 990) Virginos Fulham Road (0171-370 2638) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Warmer 10171-837 43476

◆ THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15):

Raiph Flannes amoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Chelsea (0171-351 3742) Curzon

West End (0171-389 1722) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage

Hampton's play, with Leonardo DiCaprio and David Thewils. Director, Agnieszka

elected Lebour Prime Minister, Clement Attiee, in Stephen Churchett's play, set in Potedam in the summer of 1945. Rachard Wilson directs. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 8007). Now previewing, 7:30pm, Opens April 14, 7pm. Than Mon-Sat, 7:30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ■ House tull, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

☐ WASTE: Felicity Kendel, Mishael Permington, Denis Quilley in Grenville Berker's lescinating drama. Old Vie, Waterloo Roed, SE1 (0171-928 7816). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30cm. in rep. WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF

HRT: Marre Jones and Eleen Politick in love with Daniel O'Donnell. His Irish cornedy but their daydreems are a bit obvious, somehow. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. LONG RUNNERS

☐ Blood Strothers: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ■ Cats: New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ☐ The Complete Works of William Shakesperge Works of William Shakaspeara (Abridged): Criterion (0171-389 1737)

I Mortin Generic: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400)... II Les Misérables: Palace (0171-434 0909)

I The Mousetrap: St Martin's (0171-386 1443)... Is Starfight Express: Apolio Victoria (0171-416 6054)...

I The Women in Bisck: Fortune (0171-85 2238) (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

(0181-315 4220) Plazze (0990-888 990) Renoir (0171-837 8402) Richmond (0181-332 0030) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on Balars Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Winksleys (1990-539 990) Wight Fu ◆ FEVER PITCH (15); Football-craced teacher tells in love. Appealing version of Nick Homby's book, with Colin Firth, Ruth Germnell, Director, David Evens. Claphan Picture House (0171-458 3323) Odecma: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swise Cottage (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Hitzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0390-688 990)

2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990-888 9 Virgin Chelses (0171-352 5096) THE RAILWAY CHILDREN (U): come revival at Liganet Jeffdas's an (0171-638 8891)

◆ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET (12): Elfery House O + Julie 1 (12): Direvescent contemporary treatment, with Leonard DiCaprio and Claire Danes.

ABC Tottlenham Court Road (0171-836 6148) Nothing Hill Coronet (2) (0171-727 6705) Odeona: Kensingto (0181-315 4214) Marche Arch (0181-315 4215 State Content (0181-315 4216) 1315-2(14) misster (1711-1315-315-315-315) Swrias Cottage (1713-1315-315-322) Prizza (2) (1990-888990) Rizzy (1717-137-2721) Screen/Belter Street (1717-435-2772) UCI Whiteleys (2) (1990-888990) Virgin Chelses (1717-352-5096) Warner (1717-437-4343) Wetermans (1781-563-1176)

APOLLO 24tr oc 0171 494 5070 CC 0171 344 4444 (Dkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454

BEN ELTON'S

POPCORN

## Didn't you use to be **Boz Scaggs?**

Indeed. What's more, the Silk Degrees man

is back and making music after years out of the spotlight. Paul Sexton gets the lowdown

6 I could

afford to

drop out,

and I had

to do 🤊

ention his name and the reaction may be either "I've always loved him" or "didn't he die?" Boz Scaggs has never been in better health. but he's a man in a hurry to make up for a self-imposed exile from the industry in which, 20 years ago, he belatedly became a fashionable name to drop. When his album Silk Degrees

slipped silently into circulation in 1976, punk was breaking down the door of the sleepy British rock community. America, meanwhile, had its ears opened to the endeavours of the adult singer-songwriter. Billy Joel was becoming de rigueur. Daryl Hall and John Oates were finally selling records. And Scaggs, already 32 years old and with a decade of work behind him including time with the Steve Miller Band, began a serious career

makeover. Silk Degrees started a six-month climb to the summit of the American album charts. In 1977, following the success here of singles such as Lido Shuffle and What Can I Say, the album was at last embraced by discerning British buyers.

Silk Degrees sold more than five million copies in America alone, but you will not get that information from Scaggs himself. He neither knows nor cares for such statistics, did not keep one of the countless gold discs be-stowed upon him and, within a few years, had checked out of the recording industry altogether. In the 14 years from 1980. Scapps made fust one new studio album, to lukewarm response. "It wasn't a wilful decision just to drop out," he says, "but I knew what I

IN the film Night of the

Hunter Robert Mitchum

plays a demonic, black-hatted

preacher with "love" and

les. If it had been a musical,

Mitchum would have

sounded like Preacher Boy.

Demonic? Well let's just say

that a singer who takes on

Tom Wait's throaty rasp and

then adds some blues-filled

howls of his own is not exactly

Mind you, that was only

when he was playing. In

between numbers the San

Francisco-based Preacher

Boy, otherwise known as

on the side of the angels.

hate" tattoed on his knuck-

other things to take care of." These included raising two sons, now aged 18 and 19. "I had lost a personal sense of music itself, I wasn't enjoying it. There weren't insurmountable pressures or anything, but I stopped thinking about music. I didn't play guitar any more. I didn't play piano, it just became routine." How joyous, then, to find that he and

his first flame are back in love. Scaggs returned to the studio in 1994 to make Some Change, one of that year's most svelte albums. and used its momentum to power not one, but two new records cut last year. The first, Fade Into Light, is a delightful jamboree bag, so far only available in Japan other things and stuffed with new versions of some of his best songs, such as Lowdown and We're All Alone. And

now there is Scaggs's new album proper. It's called Come on Home, a homecoming indeed to the kind of grooves that played in his bedroom as he grew up deep in the heart of Texas. For all its stylishly bluesy ambience, generated by covers of tunes by "Sonny Boy" Williamson, T-Bone Walker and Jimmy Reed, the musically scholarly Scaggs is keen to refine the description.

"I try to distinguish this album from a strictly blues album because it's sort of the next step after blues: it's rhythm and blues. At a point, blues evolved into R&R, it wasn't like R&B was there all the time." As he warms to his theme you find yourself wishing you'd had a music teacher as funky as this. "Blues, gospel and jazz people like

Louis Jordan and even Nat 'King' Cole and Ray Charles came out of a church background, but they were also prowas doing. I could afford to, and I had gressive jazz players," he continues.



"Before rock n'roll there was a period that was strictly R&B. I tried to stay in that genre, because I'm not really a blues performer per se, and this is where I entered the scene.

"I grew up in a town near Dallas, and we had black radio, which was distinctly different. I had a few friends who also listened to that stuff. It was kind of exclusive, like you were with a bunch of collectors. We used to bring our little 45s to school and play them in the lunch hour."

So, at 52 years of age. Scaggs has played the happy schoolboy again. adding four new songs of his own to a brew that includes David Porter and Isaac Hayes's precious stone of soulfulEnd), and Bobby "Blue" Bland's 1961 American R&B smash Don't Cry No More. Even to attempt them took courage: legend has it that before his commercial coming of age Scaggs attempted to visit Bland backstage and was ejected by bouncers. In his sleeve notes, he says that to attempt to stand in such shoes, "you might as well try to re-hang the moon". And the future? "I don't know what

the next record's going to be, but I don't think there's going to be any more time away from recording," he says. "Music and I are in a pretty good place right

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● Come On Home is released by Virgin. Box Scaggs plays the Jazz Cafe in London on

The dark side of the force Way to Get Along, where he adopted a vocal falsetto as a Christopher BLUES

sounded about as possessed by the devil as your average, well, preacher boy. Playing with a slimmed-

down version of the band on his current album Gutters and Pews - Steve Escobar on drums, Danny Uzilevsky on bass and Big Bones on harmonica - he took the usual conventions of 12-bar blues hands, shook them around, bounced them off the walls and provided a set of strong.

Preacher Boy

Borderline, WI

mainly original numbers. Playing the most battered steel guitar I have ever seen, he ripped through songs like In a Darkened Night, Railroad and a rousing version of Robert Wilkins's That's No

counterpoint to his usual growls. And the six foot high harp-player Bones, complete with dreadlocks, white tails and a black and white top hat, provided the rhythmic backdrop necessary for Watkins to show off his bottleneck skills. Bones also had the space to display his own talents with some tasty solos and some slightly less than tasty pogo

What was impressive was the range of styles the band could cover, from the Bo Diddley rhythms of Who Do You Love through what sounded suspiciously like ragtime to the down-home intensity of the Delta classic Catfish Blues.

Finally, speaking of the devil's music during one intensely personal song about a neighbour who had committed suicide, Preacher Boy's amp fused and he was left temporarily sound-less. Spooky or what?

JOHN CLARKE

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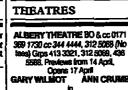
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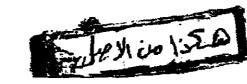
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POP 3

Depeche Mode, the stadium fillers from Basildon. take a yawnsome Wrong turning



■ POP 4

. . and a persistent low-rent feeling mars Cast's latest, Mother Nature Calls





POP 5

... but the maverick Dutch band Bettie Serveert serve up diverting fare on Dust Bunnies



**■ POP 6** 

. and Chemical Brothers have Caitlin Moran swooning over the amazing Dig Your Own Hole

## Off the drugs and on to junk

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair on

Depeche Mode's cold turkey of a comeback, the misnamed Ultra

DEPECHE MODE

Ultra (Mute STUMM 148 £13.99)

NOW virtually unrecognisable as the synth-pop ban-tamweights from Basildon who started off in 1981 with humalong hits such as New Life and Just Can't Get Enough, Depeche Mode have turned into a colossal, stadi-um-rock attraction with a dark and heavy mystique. Their last studio album, Songs of Faith and Devotion, released four years ago, topped the charts in both Britain and America, and the arrival of Ultra has been flagged by a string of interviews in which singer David Gahan has discussed, with questionable relish, the intimate details of his decline into near-terminal drug addiction and subsequent rehabilitation.

The stage would thus seem to have been set for an album that explores harrowing extremes of the human condition, an impression initially confirmed by the choice of Barrel Of A Gun as the first single and opening track. This twisted tortured mess/ This bed of sinfulness/Who's longing for some rest/And feeling numb," Gahan sings against a beat that could snap slabs of concrete.

But further along the line, things start to go awry. The biblical imagery of The Love Thieves is shackled to the sort. of after-dinner chocolate soul tune that George Michael goes in for these days; Home starts off all mean and moody, but then gets hijacked by a sunny pop chorus of which Erasure would be proud. And, for all the gloomy menace of Useless and the aptly titled It's No Good, the tunes themselves recall nothing so much as the flatulent pop stylings of Tears For Fears, an impression exacerbated by Gahan's oompous delivery they get to the Leonard Coheninfluenced The Bottom Line and the baroque finale of Insight, it's all become rather

a yawn. Despite the care and attention that has been lavished on it, not least by Martin Gore,

> CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

who wrote all the songs, and by producer Tim Simenon of Bomb the Bass, there is a weary feel to this album. It sounds as if, instead of providing inspiration, all the anest they have been through has simply worn them out.

CAST Mother Nature Calls (Polydor 537 567 E13.99) CAST have sold a million copies of their 1995 debut

album, All Change, which, on paper, puts them right up there with the giants of Britpop. But there is a slight but persistently low-rent quality to Cast's retro-pop sound. resulting in songs that are more often functional than inspired. So it proves with Mother

Nature Calls, which finds singer and songwriter John Power increasing his range to embrace occasional oddities such as the country-rock ballad, Live the Dream, or the mildly weird neo-psychedelia of The Mad Hatter, but being content, more often than not, to fall back on the Oasis-like routines of She Sun Shines and the current single, Free Me. (In truth, Noel Gallagher was probably more influenced by Power's previous group, the La's, than Cast have been by Oasis, but that's the breaks.)

John Leckie's outrageously old-fashioned production, with the harmony vocals pushed right to the front of the mix while the instruments fight for whatever space is left behind, gives an appropriate spin to the album's cheerful, if backward-looking, formula.

BEITIE SERVEERT Dust Bunnies (Beggars Banquet BBQ 189 £14.99)

£14.99)
STILL paddling around in the indie-rock shallows long after mainstream success, Dutch group Bettie Serveert continue to make music with rough edges and wry grace.

Even by their standards, Dust Bunnies has an unresolved feel, with the arrangements of numbers such as Sugar the Pill having been abandoned before the rhythm section arrived at the studio, and others, including the Lemonheads-influenced Story in a Nutshell, succinct to the point of perfunctory. But the day is



The good news is that singer David Gahan (right), has escaped his narcotic hell. The bad news is that Depeche Mode have celebrated with a duff album

carried, as ever, by the sweet and sour voice of Canadianborn singer Carol van Dijk and the lovingly distorted

SACRED SPIRIT Volume 2 Culture Clash (Virgin 8 42962 £13.99) CULTURE CLASH is the latest project by the publicity-shy Klaus Zundel, the 50-yearold producer, composer and

guitar of Peter Visser.

"conceptualist" from Heidelberg. The follow-up to his two-million-selling Charits and Dances of the Native American Indians, it is a fascinating, if unlikely, combination of deep blues and modern classical music set against a discreet latticework of techno and hip

hop beats. The best tracks, especially Levends - which features in the current jeans ad starring

two "astronauts" weightlessly grappling in space — and Roots, bear a passing resemblance to the sort of fusion that Little Axe invented on their 1994 album The House That Wolf Built. But, in general, the melancholy guitar parts and gravelly vocals are blended with stately strings and machine-generated rhythms to create an entirely new musical

	- TOP TEN	LALBUMS
1 (1)		Spice Girls (Virgin)
2 ( <del>-)</del> 3 (2)	Dig Your Own Hole	Chemical Brothers (Virgin
1 (1) 2 (2) 3 (3) 5 (15)	Tragic Kingdom	t Wet Wet (Precious Organisation No Doubt (Interscope)
5 (4)	Lisa Stansfield	Lisa Stansfield (Arista Texas (Mercury
7 (7)	Blue is the Colour	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
8 (6) 9 (10)	Everything Must Go .	Manic Street Preachers (Epic) Reef (Sony S*)
10 (8)		Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)

● Figure in brackets denotes last week's p

## Rhythm and the blues

BARBARA DENNERLEIN

Junkanoo (Verve 537122-2) CLEARLY wishing to extend her music beyond the punchy Hammond organ-led smallgroup sessions that have formed the core of her recorded output, Barbara Dennerlein has attracted a clutch of star names - Randy Brecker, Frank Lacy and David Sanchez among them - to interpret the more adventurous charts she has provided for this, her second Verve album.

Despite the presence of her

#### JAZZ ALBUMS

regular collaborators (guitarist Mitch Watkins and Dennis Chambers, fusion drummer supreme) and the fact that her compositions have lost little of their swirlingly attractive immediacy, the session has a slightly studio-bound feel to it, as if polish and balance had been considered more important than the chunky, visceral attack frequently associated with the Hammond B3. That said, this is a typically lively Dennerlein set, strongly rhythmic without enslaving itself to the groove. And two guests, tenorman David Murray and vibes player Joe Locke, manage to stamp their considerable individuality on the proceedings.

JOHN COLTRANE Blue Trane: John Coltrane Plays the Blues (Prestige PRCD 11005-2)

COMPILED from the numerous recording dates undertaken by John Coltrane during his brief association with Prestige (1957-8), this 70-minute selection of blues material is fascinating and frustrating in roughly equal proportions.

Although intriguing for the snapshot it provides of the great tenorman (heard on alto to accommodate his majestic grandiloquence within the discipline of the 12-bar format just prior to making his breakthrough "sheets of sound" recording Giant Steps, it is not quite coherent enough as an album completely to allay suspicions of record-company opportunism. As a relatively easy - and cheap - introduc-tion to cusp-period Coltrane. however, it earns two cheers.

CHRIS PARKER

Fame has not changed the Chemical Brothers; they're just as shy as ever

## Two anoraks of fire

were tested on Top Gear. L then Celine Dion would be a Ford Escort with a transfer of some palm trees on the boot. and Jeremy Clarkson would dub her "low on poke". The Fugees' Mustang — a classic 1970s car updated — would gain a grudging "OK, for a popular car". And Kula Shaker's rickety retro moped would probably be torched by the firm but fair, Mr Clarkson. But we rather suspect he

would love the Car of Rock that the Chemical Brothers have made. It's a gaudy Volkswagen caravanette with a Lear Jet engine; instantly lovable but fearsomely powerful. It hurtles around hair-pin bends with the grace of an oiled panther, but is equally at home parked up in a lay-by. knocking out toast for friends on a tiny camping grill. For those who know that dance music is exciting, but still can't quite find a way into all those 12-inches and white labels, the Chemicals are a welcoming

entry point. Their remixes of Manic Street Preachers, the Charlatans and Primal Scream introduced thousands of indie kids to dance music, and their DJ slots at the Heavenly Sunday Social revolutionised clubbing. The Chemicals would play anything and everything. from hip-hop to house to Happy Mondays. Along with the Prodigy, the Chemicals have taken all the exciting parts of rock music, mixed them in with all the exciting parts of dance music, and made music to get very excited about indeed. It's very

Rowlands, the long-haired

doesn't look very excited, but then, the Chemicals are painfully shy and embarrassed when they do interviews. They can't talk themselves without cringing, and trying to make them talk about

their music is like trying to feed a toddler parsnips. They turn their heads this way and that, and shoot pained looks at the interviewer. In a moment of enormous braggadocio. Ed Simons (the curly-haired Chemical) offers that their new album, the awesome Dig Your Own Hole, is "better than the last one". But then, he adds.

University in 1991, the Chemi-cals bonded through a shared mous trucks. For reasons they still can't explain, the Chemicals found this the most hilarious sight on God's green earth. They made a pact to record their first single after sandth truck being pulped. "I can still remember what the truck was called - Eddie's One-Stop Monster Muncher," Rowlands giggles. We thought about calling the first single that, as a tribute." Alas, it was the re-named Song to the Siren that the influential



MORAN

lots of people liked the first

one as well." Meeting at Manchester love of Monster Trucks. an American sporting pursuit in which enormous trucks drive over slightly smaller enorthey'd witnessed their thou-

DJ Andy Weatherall picked up on and played to death. During the next three years, "Yeah, I suppose it is," Tom the Chemicals gently ascended the Arc of Fame, reaching the

shouting "Who is this doing this synthetic type of alpha-beta psychedelic funkin?", top of the curve last year, when Noel hip-hop, dub, rock and pop. The Chemicals' Day in The Setting Sun. This sawing, buzzing. vi-Life is the final track - the olent mash-up of ominous, dizzy, planet-sized Private Psychedelic Reel. A Tomorrow Never

went Knows straight in at No I. vertiginous whirtwind of sitars and endless, relentless and has now been followed to the top beats, it'll suck every word by Block Rockin' save "Wow" from your vocab-Beats. And, even ulary in one minute flat. That it goes on for another six better, the Chemiminutes is a fact for which we cals enjoy the most enviable type of fame - very few people have the faintest clue what should all give profound thanks. One's knees buckle they look like. and knot at the thought of how

chord changes, block-rockin' beats, sirens, whistles, people

Parker writes.

AS WAS continually emphasised at the

recent memorial service to Ronnie Scott,

he and his partner Pete King were

pivotal figures in the struggle waged at

the time of their club's inception in 1959

to persuade the Musicians' Union to

rescind its ban on American jazz

musicians playing in this country, Chris

Chicago-born saxophonist Chico

Freeman has more reasons than most to

be grateful for their efforts, having made almost a second home of the club in the past decade with various line-ups.

During his current formight's residen-

cy, Freeman is appearing in the capacity

that perhaps best highlights his particu-

lar musical gifts: as leader of his own

acoustic quintet. A scion of Chicago's jazz aristocracy — his father, Von, is one

of the world's most original saxophon-

ists - Freeman has always, without

it must sound live. I was once recognised by "Yeah, it's probably the best thing we've done." Rowlands this old lady at Sandwell and Dudley railway station," Si-mons says. "But she thought I once presented Blue Peter." says. Simons looks at him as if he's just stabbed a hen. "Well, Dig Your Own Hole is a lot of people have said it's OK." Rowlands apologises. really an A-Z guide of everything cool to ever happen in So there you go. The future pop music heart-straining

is OK. ● Dig Your Own Hole is released by Virgin Records



Copyright CIN

The Chemical Brothers model the trainspotting look — the leisure pursuit that is, not the trendy film of the same name

## Quality, control

JAZZ CONCERT

Chico Freeman Ronnie Scott's

either eschewing or denigrating modern developments in the music, quietly championed "the tradition". His frontline partner, trumpeter Jimmy Owens, is similarly inclined.

Fronting a dream rhythm section -

pianist George Cables, bassist Cecil McBee and drummer. Winard Harper Freeman began on tenor with his own Evolution, but switched to darkly sinuous soprano for Cables's Love Song, Freeman and Owens are, above all, mature, considered players with flawless techniques, and while not averse to allowing the odd chorus to harden into an almost funky strut, they restricted themselves, in the main, to providing supremely cultured solos in which the emotion was carefully controlled.

The highlight of Freeman's playing

came, characteristically, in a hushed lament, To Hear a Tear, Drop in the Rain, composed at the memorial service for a murdered friend. Imbued with quiet dignity and unsentimental but highly affecting grief, it could just as easily have served as a threnody for

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**BOOKS** 

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PROFILE

Can Philip Dodd give the Institute of Contemporary Arts a reason to exist?





DANCE

One man and a world to explore: Daniel Ezralow brings his Mandala to the Peacock



**■** MUSIC

Commence of the Commence of th

Gidon Kremer continues his idiosyncratic celebration of Schubert at the Barbican

BOOKS: Erica Wagner welcomes a definitive facsimile edition of American literature's founding father

## Twain complete, and well defended

**6** Debate

still rages

over racial

remember most about my first encounter with Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Thus writes Toni Morrison in her penetrating introduction to the novel, part of a new, complete facsimile edition of Mark Twain's works published yesterday (£240) by Oxford University Press.

"It provoked a feeling I can only describe now as muffled rage. as though appreciation of the work required my complicity in and sanction of something shaming. Yet the satisfactions were great riveting episodes of flight, of cunning: the convincing commentary on adult behavior, watchful and insouciant: the authority of a child's voice in language cut for its renegade tongue and sharp

It is that "renegade tongue and sharp intelligence" that made Mark Twain: that made — after a century of separation from Europe a voice distinct from the well-modulated tones of the mother country. "All modern American literature." wrote Ernest Hemingway. "comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn."

The Oxford Mark Twain arrives in 29 volumes of staid burgundy and sewn bindings. At first glance it seems to be just the type of thing to sit unread on a dusty shelf. "A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read." Twain himself said, aware of the air of desiccation that can linger about tomes that have made the transition from wonder-

But "classification" has not the wit of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, as these facsimile editions, perhaps paradoxically given their 19th-century look, prove. Clemens himself, a printer and publisher as well as an author,

his work: these would surely please him. But more importantly, as Shelley Fisher Fishkin, noted Twain scholar and the general editor of this collection, remarks: He would be gratified to see how he had shaped the work and lives of writers of all kinds.

For the chief delight of this collection — aside from the words of Twain himself - is surely the introduction that accompanies

each volume. Besides Morrison on Huck Finn. here is E.L. Doctorow on The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Walter Mosley on The Stolen White Elephant and Other Detective Stories, Gore Vidal on Following the Equator and Antiimperialist Essays and Erica Jong on Twain's dabbling in cod-17thcentury soft porn, 1601. It may be a commonplace to mark Twain (as it were) as a cornerstone of Ameri-

can literature: in these

introductions it is posissues in sible to see not only the influence that Huck Finn 🤊 Twain has had but also the influence he continues to have over working writers. Clemens, says Fishkin, "helped Americans figure

out how to use their own culture".

What makes Twain's works so vital

is that this "figuring out" still goes

This edition, the fruit of five ears' work, also provides scholarly "afterwords" to each book, as well as detailed notes. In some cases, as in A Tramp Abroad, the delightful line drawings are by Twain himself. It is this that distinguishes the work from collections such as the so-called Defini-

Mark Twain (1929).
The Oxford Mark Twain takes up 35 inches of shelf space. Such quantity reflects that Twain was not moved to write by spirit alone: money was always a consideration from his earliest days as a journalist. Later in his life, in the late 1880s, he became deeply involved in the fate of a new typesetting machine, devised by one James Paige. Paige was, according to Twain, "the

Shakespeare of mechanical invention. He dreamt - as would others who came after him - of publishing without the irritants of human typesetters and their unions. He spent up to \$3,000 a month supporting Paige and his invention: when the inventor turned out to be less Shakespeare and more McGonagall, he was well on the way to way

bankruptcy.
The only way out of his dilemma was to write, and write fast: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889) was produced in the machine's cumbersome shadow, and is as a result a

"technically flawed world treasure", according to Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., in his introduction. Vonnegut details some flaws, noting his lame" explanation of how the Yankee got back to the 6th century. the factory foreman's unlikely knowledge of the time and date of a Dark Age solar eclipse, and his astonishingly coincidental arrival just by that time and date: "Oh no. no, no. Please, please, please. One remembers that Twain, in a funny and unforgiving essay, fricasseed

literary crimes not half that bad."

There is much worse than this to be found in Twain's complete writings, as even the most partisan of Twain scholars will tell you. Novelist Anne Bernays introduces the volume Merry Tales and happily admits that only one of them, A Campaign That Failed, is worth a non-specialist reading. But, as she says: "It is very interesting to see that even Homer nods. Some pieces I thought, that's a fantastic idea, but I guess he didn't have the

energy to work it over properly."
Justin Kaplan, Twain's biographer, remarks that the complete works both give the reader a sense of Twain's range and reveal the writer But here, too, is all the best of

Twain: Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer Pudd'nhead Wilson, The Gilded Age. Malcolm Bradbury, who contributes the introduction to The £1,000,000 Bank-Note and Other New Stories, notes that while we may have "forgotten some of the shock" that Twain's work first ngendered when it appeared, his place as a vibrant, living voice is assured: "If you were looking for an American writer to embody America, as Cervantes is the embodiment of Spain, then it would be Twain." George Bernard Shaw said much the same thing to Twain himself. And perhaps we have not forgotten the shock, either: in the United States, at any rate, the debate over Twain - most particularly over Huck Finn and Twain's use of the word "nigger" - still rages. As Toni Morrison writes: "For a hundred years, the argument that this novel is has been identified, reidentified, examined, waged and advanced. What it cannot be is dismissed. It is classic literature, which is to say it heaves, manifests and lasts.

Surely Twain would be happy



The familiar picture of Huckleberry Finn with straw hat and patched trousers was created in 1884 by the 23-year-old Edward Windsor Kemble, who went on to draw all the book's illustrations

## The new man in the Mall

If you find yourself at the Institute of Contemporary Arts and someone sidles up and asks: "Do you come here often?" it is likely to be Philip Dodd, the venue's new

He will, of course, merely be doing some groundwork. You can understand why, because Dodd's task is to pull the institute out of the rather deep hole it has dug for itself of late. With its galleries, cinema, performance studio and discussion rooms it should be one of the most buzzing places in London. Instead it has played into the usual stereotypes about new work being elitist or esoteric. Worse, it has allowed its good stuff to slide by unremarked. One of the quiet scandals of the past few years has been the ICA's irrelevance.

That looks set to change. Dodd has been appointed just in time to grapple with the institute's financial disarray (funding from Westminster Council is currently at a stage of phased withdrawal), and to help to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this summer. As with every new director, he takes up his post in a flurry of good intentions. The difference is that he might actually

The ICA was established in 1947 by a group of entrepre-neurial surrealists. Dodd's pedigree is no less alluring. He has intellectual credentials (former academic, current member of the think-tank, Demos), media credibility (consultant for the BBC's The Late Show, winner of a Sony Radio award for his series The Colours of Music), and managerial clout (most recently asthe editor of Sight and Sound. which he transformed from a worthy but dull cinema journal into a glossy -- and almost equally worthy - magazine).

This ought to be an extremely good moment for the ICA," he says, "because the arts institutions in Britain, particularly in London, are changing more dramatically than at any time since 1945. The Tate is reinventing itself on Bankside, the Royal College of Art is transforming itself, there isn't an arts institution that isn't having to think itself afresh. But I don't think there are a lot of new ideas and at that level, historically, the

PROFILE: Can a new director restore the buzz to the slumbering, 50-year-old ICA? Andy Lavender reports



"You don't have to be solemn to be serious": Philip Dodd plans a fresh start for the ICA

The way of heating that crucible, he suggests, is to give arts practitioners their heads. 'I think the Nineties is a very interesting time, when artists are no longer happy to be curated in the traditional way. I want the ICA to be a place where writers, film-makers, visual artists and thinkers can come together, not simply sitting in the bar, but actually helping to shape and develop the programme."
You might expect such senti-

ments. But Dodd turns a number of neat phrases, almost Blairite in their embrace, which suggest that he really does have the measure of the times. "I'm very interested in 'newness', the term that worries me is 'avant garde' . . . this is a culture where people will go to the Trocadero and the Tate... you don't have to be solemn to be serious."

In a few grand gestures he presents himself as someone who is unstuffy and inclusive, but not afraid of challenge and complexity. What's more, Dodd has to date been as good as his word. Consider that he was recently involved in an event at the Queen Elizabeth Hall where he arranged for a set of pop and rock bands to provide new soundtracks for avant-garde movies. And last year he co-curated Spellbound, an engaging and extremely successful exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery. Its participants — Paula Rego,

Terry Gilliam, Damian Hirst (with a film), Peter Greenaway (with an installation) and the young video artist Steve McQueen - indicate the kind of lateral thinking we can

expect from Dodd at the ICA. He is also keen to develop an international perspective. housing artworks from other cities like, he suggests, Los Angeles or Prague. And he wants a wider range of people ("there's no reason why we shouldn't have scientists here") contributing to what he describes as a "mongrel" mix of ideas. Perhaps the clearest indication of his ambition, however, is his desire to work alongside other venues.

or certain things he admits the ICA isn't big enough — "so I would like to do things outside it. To commemorate 50 years of India, it would be great to do a big Indian film in the park. I would like to do big gigs at the Royal Festival Hall. I would like us to have a big shop window in the centre of London and have one of the artists curate it. What's important is that the ICA's work gets done. What's not important is

that it gets done in the Mall." The new broom is raising some dust. "I want to make an effect very fast," Dodd claims. The word from inside the ICA is that he has breezed in with a panoply of good ideas. Will the institute's old dogmatists learn new tricks? Will London at last have a contemporary arts institute that matters? Watch those spaces and - if Dodd

around London as well.

CONCERTS: A great violinist; plus youngsters to note

## **Essentially Schubert**

**Gidon Kremer** 

Barbican

though they seldom point the way to his vintage melodious-

ness, they yield secrets to such

searching musicianship as

In the D major first sonata.

Kremer caught the quiet mod-

esty of the opening, and dug deeper only in the plaintive middle section of the Andante,

which like the finale hints at

the composer's later style in

some very Schubertian twists.

He was always on the same

musical wavelength as his

pianist, Oleg Maisenberg,

with magical results in the

introverted opening of the A minor sonata and the more

vehement G minor work. Both

players were relaxed in the more expansive lyricism of the

Kremer's.

idon Kremer has described Schubert as one of the constant companions in his attempt to quench an insatiable curiosity for art, and he is paying special tribute to the composer in his ongoing Barbican festival, Schubert - A Contemporary Celebration. Alongside some of the great chamber works and new pieces inspired by the Schubertian spirit, Kremer is performing all the composer's violin music, and on Monday he reached the

If the violin works are not top-drawer Schubert, Kremer is right to make no apology for them. He treats the music as he would any piece by this most miraculously gifted of composers and brings insights to it that few other violinists can match. The three Op 137 sonatas represent Schubert as a writer of "utility music", and

On course for virtuosity Messiaen and Nietzsche, interspersed with dance workshops and ten days of rehearsal: not a typical period of orchestral preparation, but then this was no typical concert. The National Youth Orchestra's Easter course preceded an evening which would have defeated all

> so ensembles. As if to brace themselves, in their fiftieth birthday year.

but the most resilient of virtuo-

NYO/ Skrowaczewski Barbican

against whatever rigours the future might hold (and a good third of them customarily go on to play in professional orchestras), this band of 13 to 19-year-olds fearlessly took on Beethoven's Grosse Fuge, Messiaen's Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum and Strauss's Also sprach Zarathustra. The orchestral course was

on the subject of The Philosophy of Life. And Beethoven's Grosse Fuge was the most powerful embodiment of that theme in the entire evening. As the NYO, conducted the NYO, conducted by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, dug into the sinews of Weingartner's orchestral arrangement, all of human life seemed to be there: the teeming energy of its counterpoint; the individual, still, small voices surfacing diffidently and movingly from the mass; the quiet, slow-breathing episodes in which Beethoven's music seems to reach out to the

more obviously. The five movements of his commemoration of the dead of two world wars illustrate five biblical texts in the voices of brass, woodwind and percussion. And the NYO was more than equal to its task of recreating a steady brass ascent de profundis, the wild shrick of the Amazon Uirapuna bird, and the chiming Easter antiphons of the morning stars. The work was played, sadly, without the composer's requested one-minute pause between movements which we had been promised in the programme.

A. a maturer piece which

moves from a delicate begin-

The concert also featured

the premiere of a Barbican

commission, Gija Kancheli's

Time ... and again for violin

and piano. The composer ap-

parently failed to make any

Schubertian allusions, but

was reluctant to talk about the

piece in a short interview with

John Tusa, conducted in Geor-

gian through his wife as

interpreter. This latest work

has less of the torpor-inducing

New Age minimalism for which Kancheli has become

known, though it is still large-

ly slow, with ethereal, floated

violin lines punctuated by

stabbing interjections from the piano. Little motifs come in

and out of focus, and there is

one searing climax before

Messiaen did it all rather

JOHN ALLISON

stillness returns.

ning to fiery intensity.

Skrowaczewski was an in spiring guide through the universe of Strauss's Zarathustra. He made the very most of the vibrant string playing of this orchestra - a sound which speaks of fresh excitement rather than familiarity with its own voice. Linking up. urging on, putting them through their paces in yet another fugue, Skrowaczewski finally yielded to leader Clare Duckworth as she proudly and ably took the floor in the Dance of Superman.

HILARY FINCH

## Magic of the movies

These days the thought could cross your mind that Mandala is a misprint and that South Africa's most celebrated hero has taken to the stage. But as students of Buddhism and Hinduism know, a mandala is a circular design symbolising the universe; and so it proves in the Peacock Theatre's latest import. Mandala tells the story of a spiritual journey, where man is universal and past and future dissolve into the present.

Mandala is conceived, choreographed and per-formed by Daniel Ezralow, whose idea of dance was never going to be conventional given his previous affili-ation with the American movement-illusionist groups Pilobolus and Momix. Although it is a solo show. in effect it seems a lot more, its vista enlarging to take in vast deserts and throbbing cities, forest glades and sweeping mountain-peaked horizons.

These are film pictures

projected on a complex amai-

gam of screens. Segments of film are juxtaposed; images

Mandala Peacock Theatre

DANCE

are replicated by mirrors; and amid this kaleidoscope moves the live figure of Ezralow. He is Vesalius's anatomical man; he is a pedestrian in streets filled with shoppers and traffic; he

is a lone silhouette appearing out of the wilderness, his film self transforming into his real self. The stage Ezralow pushes open filmed doors, climbs filmed stairs, and runs along a speeding filmed rail track, the camera angle making the spectators feel as

if they are the train. Because the trickery and interplay of images creates choreography in itself, it doesn't matter that the dance content is slim. The facile

music — orchestral pop to quasi-religious chorales — is something else, however. Ezralow writes that he wants to achieve a synthesis of means which will stimulate all the senses. Alas, the glazed eyes and trance-like passivity of the audience suggested the opposite. For Mandala softly bathes you in a sensory experience that makes no demands, raises no questions, offers everything predigested so nothing is left to the imagination. It is attractive but unchallenging, ambi-

NADINE MEISNER



# **EDUCATION**

# A different discipline

Simon Midgley on Summerhill, a school that gives children the freedom to make their own choices

minutes his

electronian of

n expletive trips from the lips of the exasperated 15-year-old chairing the weekly tribunal dealing with rule-breaking. the business of the day over the incessant noise from two older boys.

At Summerhill, one of Britain's oldest progressive schools, justice is adminis-

tered democratically. Children do not mince their words. They also swear freely. Once peace is restored, litter bugs are fined, a boy who punched a fellow pupil is directed to do half an hour's community work and an allegation that another boy

stole a roll of film is found unproven. As politicians increasingly promote traditional methods of schooling. Summerhill is still doing what it has always done: giving children the freedom to make their own choices. And while British educators laud the regimented, rote-learning approach of the Pacific Rim countries, a steady stream of Japanese. Taiwanese and Korean parents are sending their children to the place the popular press once dubbed "the dd-as-you-please. anything-goes, freedom school".

Today, Summerhill - founded by the late A.S. Neill 76 years ago and locating eventually in Leiston, Suffilk, in 1927 has 16 Japanese, nine Taiwanese and four Korean pupils. Only the other week the 67-pupil fee-paying school was visited by the Korean Minister of Education. The school also has 21 children from Britain, lo from Germany and one from France.

Neill said Summerhill, which prides itself on "Giving Children Back Their Childhoods", might be "the happiest school in the world". He believed that children should have the freedoin "to grow at their own pace, freedom from all indoctrination, religious, political, moral: freedom for children to live in their own community, making their own social laws.

In particular, he believed in the innate goodness of the child, that the aim of education is to find happiness, that emotional development is as important as intellectual development, that discipline and punishment dogmatically imposed create fear, that freedom does not mean licence, that respect for the individual must be mutual and that feelings of guilt inhibit independence. In his bestselling book Summerhill, Neill said: "The function of the child is to live his own life — not the life that his anxious parents think he should live, nor a life according to the knows what is best." He believed that if a child wants to study, he or she will do so in their own time.

Today Summerhill is run by Zoe Readhead, his daughter, according to Neil's guiding principles. The school lives as a community in a sprawling late 19th-century house in 14 acres of grounds in a small rural town near Aldeburgh. There are seven teachers and three houseparents. The teachers live in the main house or in caravans in the garden.

It is a community of equals. Adults do not impose their wills on the children. A weekly school meeting decrees how the

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Let's put it to the vote: trainer-wearing pupils at Summerhill School in Suffolk take a democratic decision

would rather produce a happy street

cleaner than a neurotic prime minister.

She is frustrated that the Government

considers it has nothing to learn from

Summerhill. "Imposing discipline misses the point," she says. "Summerhill children learn self-discipline through negotiat-

The school tackles bullying by talking

about it in community meetings. State

schools attempting limited forms of self-

government or tribunal systems are

trying to reinvent a wheel made at

Summerhill. "Nobody will take the step

and think, well, after 75 years of watching

free-range children, maybe they have

learnt something that we could make use

of in the state system. I think it is so sad,"

ing life in the community.

Mrs Readhead says.

school is run. This determines the community's policy, for example, on town visits, bed times and smoking.

A weekly tribunal meeting gives every-one the opportunity to bring up complaints about anti-social behaviour by others. Fines include being last in the lunch queue, half an hour's work in the community or small financial penalties. In both meetings, sanctions and laws are decided by a majority vote. A teacher's vote carries no more weight than a child's.

The second key principle is that lessons are voluntary. There are time-tabled lessons, but a child can choose to attend classes or not. Some spend years choosing not to attend. Despite this, most Summerhill children do take GCSEs and go on to further education college.

religious instruction and children can be as untidy as they like in their own bedrooms. Swearing is permitted and the older children are allowed to smoke in private. Mrs Readhead imposes a handful of rules - no alcohol and no pellet guns. and Summerhill abides by the laws of the land on health, safety and drugs.

The popular view that Summerhill is a school without rules. This is wrong. The community has up to 180 rules, which are regularly reviewed and modified by votes in the general meeting.

The chance to argue your case for

change and alter or abolish the rules, Mrs

Readhead says, gives children real personal freedom.

"Our philosophy is that you are free to do exactly as you like as long as you do not interfere with somebody else's freedom," she says. "All we do here is respect children enough to allow them to make choices about their own lives. The problem from the outside world's point of view is that people do not believe that children can make sensible choices."

his freedom, she adds, gives children the chance to take responsibility for themselves and for others, and to learn to respect the needs and rights of others. In conventional schools this sense of responsibility is taken away by adults assuming

Summerhill has always had a very open and supportive attitude towards sexuality. Neill said that he would gladly give teenagers the opportunity to have a free sex life if he were not governed by

However, Mrs Readhead says: "We can police that so far as we can, but I am not a fool; of course children are going to be having sex. So are they in Leiston High School, so are they everywhere. It would be stupid to imagine that they are not." She is very critical of mainstream education which encourages children to

compete "like racehorses". Neill said he

to the wonders of **Brontë and Kipling** English teachers should be widening horizons - not trapping pupils in a desert of banality

Leading children

pupils to do any real reading? Much fuss is made about the mechanics of reading, yet almost all pupils learn eventually to decode the squig-gles on the page. The really important thing is what you apply the skill to once you've mastered it.

A reading curriculum — and of course I include plays and poetry as well as prose — should be about leading children to areas of knowledge and experience which they would not find on their own.

Why then is a Midlands comprehensive, whose programmes of studying recently came my way, devoting a

whole term of Year 7 English lessons to study the film - not Kipling's writing, but the film — of The Jungle Book? This movie is top of the video library ratings. This means that most children will have watched it at home. How many of those same children are likely to have read the Mowgli stories? Nowhere in the pro-

SUSAN ELKIN

gramme does that school mention Kipling or any reading at all. What an opportunity missed The three short stories on which the Disney fim is based take up fewer than 70 pages in my copy of The Jungle Book so why aren't teachers reading them with their pupils, discussing Kipling's style, the way he presents characters and sets his scene? I am worried about the effects of

teachers (and inspectors) damning the wonderful texts which have inspired, delighted and developed readers for generations. Too difficult, they say. Or worse: irrelevant to these inner city/ rural/working-class/middleclass/overseas . . . kids. The pigeonhole of cultural deprivation varies according to school context, but the message and attitude is always the same.

I have several times taught Great Expectations at GCSE to pupils of varying abilities in different types of school. This does not seem to me to be

Thy are English teachers so in the least remarkable. Of course, the frightened of asking their young people need help, but that is young people need help, but that is what an English teacher is there for. This year — in a selective school my choice of Great Expectations has led to amazement from my colleagues.

"But it's so long," one teacher said.
"The students will find it awfully difficult," observed another. "I'm not brave enough to tackle that," said a

Because GCSE was designed as an ll-ability exam, it is thought necessary to include in the various syllabuses some very "accessible" novels. In this context "accessible" means written in modern, quite often American, English and short. It also frequently means that

the book must have been written specifically for a teenage

Of course, there is nothing wrong with Mildred E. Taylor's Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry or Robert Cormier's After the First Death. Indeed, I might use them as class readers with younger groups and would certainly recommend pupils to read them indepen-

dently. But they are not worth spending many weeks of GCSE class time on when you could, as an alternative, be introducing Dickens or the Brontës.

Doing proper English literature texts at GCSE also enables students to make the step into A-level English Literature work. What chance for a new A-level student embarking on, say. Barchester Towers, if the most rigorous book he or she has read is a 100-page American teenage novel?

The Americans have an unjoyely, but apt, expression for this miserable, and apparently inexorable, process of educational and cultural deterioration. They call it "dumbing down".

English teachers should be consciously widening literary horizons, not trapping pupils in a desert of banality by restricting their reading to the immediately and superficially attractive. To do otherwise is profoundly anti-educational.

#### League tables will The key to performance is PREPARATION outlast May 1 is your child coming up to 11 and facing the National Tests in English, Mathematics and Science? If so, they need to be prepared.

John O'Leary introduces an initial guide to primary school tests in

English, mathematics and science

ational testing may have been a hot polit-They are the ONLY ones which contain the actual questions set in the tests by ical potato in John Patter's days as Education Secretary, but the only difference between the two main parties now is over who should publish the league

> Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to tables, as well as tests, at seven, II and 14. The Tories want national publication; Labour limits its ambitions to local leagues.

As a result, any lingering hopes in the teaching profession that last month's primary league tables were a one-off experiment have been dashed. Seven-year-olds may be given a year's grace, but schools know they will be judged on the tests facing 11-year-olds next month.

Last year for the first time schools took the tests seriously enough to introduce revision sessions, and many en-couraged parents to reinforce the work at home. The three books on English, mathematics and science, sponsored by The Times in association with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, proved instantly popular and eventually sold out.

Twelve months on, the market has expanded, with publishers producing a variety of revision aids, some on CD-Rom. However, the new editions of the three books remain the only ones to include actual test papers, as well as advice and informa-

tion on how this year's tests will differ from previous

versions. The series will be available from mainstream bookshops as well as from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the publishers. They will cost £5.95 each, and a triple pack will be available for E14.95. Most of the tests will take

place in the week of May 12, although a few high-fliers will sit extension papers in mathematics and science on May 19. Among the innovations will be separate tests of spelling and handwriting, and optional extra tests in grammar and punctuation. There will also be an optional test in mental

olted in some cases by the impact of league tables, primary schools can be expected to make even more effort to prepare pupils this year. Nick Tate, the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the body responsible for the tests, says that the process has revived the "lost art" of Many teachers are uncon-

vinced of the value of the tests, but the threat of a boycott. which loomed over last year's operation, appears to have receded. None of the teaching unions voted for action at their Easter conferences. The National Union of Teachers might have done, but the key motion was not debated and the union's executive will not





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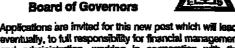
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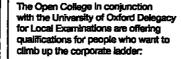
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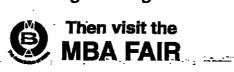
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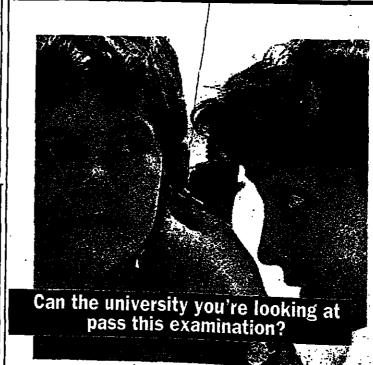
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Children at assembly: the problem for many educators is to find the best way of instilling moral values

# Added moral value

The organisers of yesterday's conference on values in education could hardly have expected that the subject would be quite so topical. An election campaign dominated by sleaze has brought new life to a debate that appeared to have run its course.

The atmosphere of moral panic when the debate was at its height. after the murder of Philip Lawrence had subsided by the time the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) began to finalise its proposals. Discussion had descended into a textual dispute over whether to "support" or promote" marriage.

When the election intervened, SCAA officials were putting the finishing touches to an introductory statement setting out the rationale behind its proposed guidelines. Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive and the driving force behind the initiative, wanted to stress the need for teachers to be given a statement that represented a consensus on moral values, heading off those who wanted a

more utopian vision. The Archbishop of Canterbury's intervention was designed to move the process on and, perhaps, to preempt a damaging split within the Church of England. The Bishop of

John O'Leary describes the shifting positions in the latest debate

the current version as a first step to

a wider review of the national

Labour wants lessons in parent-

ing and citizenship, both of which

are likely to be addressed in the

model syllabuses to be produced by

the new Qualifications and Curric-

ulum Authority if the statement on

values receives government appro-

val. Some of those at yesterday's

conference at the London Univer-

sity Institute of Education were

riage in schools, but his own paper

lamented the fate of previous

attempts to address issues such as

careers education and the en-

vironment through the existing

curriculum. "The ten-subject nat-

ional curriculum encourages con-

centration on traditional cognitive

learning," he said, "but young

people grow up unable to cope with

rofessor Denis Lawton, the

institute's former director,

welcomed Dr Carey's call

for more emphasis on mar-

eager to move in this direction.

curriculum.

Ripon, the Right Reverend David Young, who chairs the church's Board of Education, told Dr Tate in January: "There is a strong feeling that the statement on marriage does need greater underpinning.

Dr Carey steered a careful middle course yesterday, emphasising that he would take a stronger line on marriage personally, but accepting that the guidelines drawn up by the 150-strong National Forum represented a fair reflection of shared values of a "wide cross-section" of society. "I believe that the time has come to stop arguing about particular words in the statement and to move on to the huge and vital task of considering what the implications of the words are for the curriculum and activities and ethos of the school."

The Archbishop's suggestion that the statement was strong for schools was enough for Dr Young, who gave him strong support in a

But what will be the fate of the SCAA's initiative when the election is over? Gillian Shephard has hinted that a Conservative Government might want a stronger state-

derstanding of their own society, including its political structure, and unable to cope with questions of values and morality. A dramatic shift in the direction of social and moral education may be our most ment, but a Labour administration urgent need." would probably be satisfied with

In the short term, however, the SCAA guidelines are likely to find their way into schools with only minor amendment. The Roman Catholic Church had wanted a stronger line on marriage, but Professor Gerald Grace, Director of the Centre for Research and Development in Catholic Education, also seemed yesterday to signal acceptance of compromise. "It's right for churches to make pronouncements about marriage. Teachers have to make professional judgments about how that can be sensitively mediated in a context where there is a vast range of ways

of people living together." Whether the initiative will make real difference in schools is harder to predict. Teachers' leaders insist that that marriage is a uniquely sensitive question in which individual circumstances have to be taken into account but that schools already give a clear moral lead overall. The seriousness with which the electorate seems to treat the current sleaze allegations could be seen as the ultimate proof.

### Seeking a blueprint for the schools revolution

to assisted places, pre-dicting the future has even more difficult for independent schools. The loss of about £140 million in income and more than 30,000 pupils could be only partially offset by schools endowment funds. The choice likely to be faced by many of the schools is: become more en-

treprenetirial, or decline. The spring term usually marks a delicate balancing act in the management of schools. By the beginning of the summer, staff contracts have to be confirmed for the next academic year, yet for many schools, numbers for September 1997 are still uncertain.

For parents, this uncertainty can create an opportunity to gain a place at a school which they had previously thought was full.

All schools are feeling draught of competition and some are trying to take a longer view and reposition themselves for the 21st century. Dramatic options are being con-sidered — from boarding to day, becoming interna-tional, or offering summer courses.

Business strategists have long debated the dilemmas and options. Staff today are regularly told that they have to cope with changing markets. Governing bodies are wondering whether they should diversify, or stick to excellence in that which they know. The choice sometimes

is between soldiering on in a declining market or changing radically. What should the governing

council of a good school be

reviewing and, just as important, whom should they be consulting? It would be normal to establish the views of current and future prospective parents quite early on. The problem is that market research is expensive, and most schools do not have access to the professional questionnaire design and software analysis packages that they need. To combat this, some boarding schools have linked together, and the Lansdowne Group has carried out de-

tailed research to try to discover

why some parents who could af-

Anne Lee

suggests a

strategy to the independents

ford a boarding education resist

Some governing bodies are showing themselves to be frightened of parents, and seeking to avoid contact with them. But parents' positive energy must be harnessed. Then they can properly be asked to act as the schools

best ambassadors. The head or chairman who reads the questionnaires closely will find that many parents offer additional information on the forms, and telephoning them to

greater insights and generate

The next task is to involve the

staff in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the school. An

essential part of this process lies

in establishing and describing the

school's core values and specialist

areas, which should give it an

enduring identity. Every school

has to be competent at teaching its

range of subjects, but it may have

special features which lift it above

ship with the Lawn Tennis Asso-

ciation; city technology colleges

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others.

SPECIALIST

Schools which have reputations for being poorly managed not only make expensive mistakes, they may find that their reputdiscuss their comments can give ation makes it difficult to recruit

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good new staff. Recently there were two very similar schools looking for new heads. One had three times as many applicants as its competitor, and the applicants were of a better standard.

contribute evolutionary ideas

which take into account changes in technology, recent reviews of

the curriculum and the proposals

for altering the A-level examina-

students, too, is vital. Whether it is the suggestions box outside the

head's study or discussions on

pupil councils, the process mat-

ters less than the fact that some

economic, social and demograph-

ic review which includes looking

at other schools in the area, and a governing council will begin to have all the information neces-

sary to formulate a strategy.

Add to all this information an

consultation has to take place.

Some method of involving the

tion procedures.

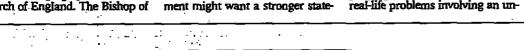
Once the strategy is defined it needs to be communicated and the skills needed to create the new future put in place. If the school has a visionary, yet genuinely kind head, this phase need not be seen as a threat to staff. One of the real skills of headship is to create useful square holes for the

square pegs.

Managing change successfully requires skills audits of all management and staff. This should include an audit of the governing body. If, for example, they are trying to manage change and they do not have among them people with significant general management, marketing and personnel experience, then they should recognise this situation. The list of management compe-

tencies which the head needs is daunting, but even the most competent head cannot manage change successfully unless it is the right blueprint for the school.

● The author, an education and business adviser, is a school governor and has been both a busine





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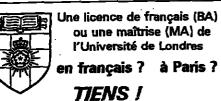
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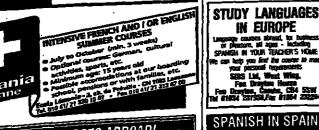


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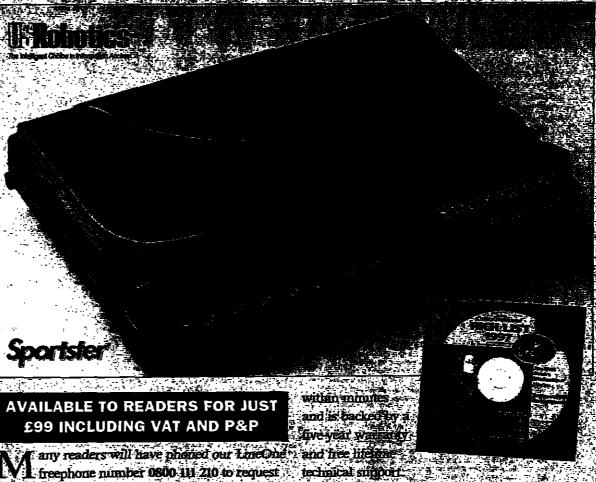
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CHANGING TIMES

### Lucy Duncan waves a final farewell to the perils of the Southern Ocean

# The pain of being collared at the Cape

Southern Ocean storms are fading already. The past ten days have been longer than the rest of the leg put together. One of the Southern Ocean's parting gifts to us on Concert was a huge wave that knocked three of us over and left us all sporting matching slings.

Standing in the cockpit, preparing to tack the boat with Chris Tibbs at the helm, we postponed the tack to allow a large wave to pass. There was the usual cry of "big wave" from Chris, the skipper, which is the warning to hold on, followed by a slightly more urgent "bloody big wave". The next thing I knew, I was



hit from behind and thrown off my feet by a wave of indescribable force, landing jammed up against the wheel. Chris was lying at the back of the boat, having been thrown off the wheel. He dislocated his shoulder and I broke my collar-bone. John Keating also chipped a bone in his hand.

For the next few days, Chris was unable to steer the boat at all and latterly only when the wind was light. I was banished below decks and spent the most frustrating ten days of my life unable to do anything useful on deck, restricted to repairing the spinnaker and helping out in the galley.

As the racing got closer, the frustration increased. In the

Tow that we are safely past few days, the lead in Cape Town, the changed hands between us memories of the and Group 4 several times Two days before the finish, we were eight miles in front and began to allow ourselves to think we might actually win. The tension was unbelievable As we came within a few miles of the finish line, Group 4 was in front and the winds became increasingly variable. The night of the finish seemed to go on for ever as our speed varied from nought to three

The last few miles took several hours and we could see Group 4 silhouetted in front of us. Although we were gradually hauling our rival in. Group 4 crossed the line when we were 0.9 miles short — a race of more than 6,000 miles and less than a mile, or 20 minutes, separated the boats.

The only way we knew it had crossed was when we heard a huge cheer echo across the water. The air of disappointment on Concert was palpable and we were temporarily struck dumb. It was agonising to lose by such a small margin, but we are a resilient lot and 24 hours later were enjoying the achievement of having crossed our last bit of the Southern Ocean and giving Group 4 a run for its money.

The crew worked well together; the manner in which we have all got on has been one of the highlights of the leg. We have achieved a lot together and gone through some experiences that I have no intention of repeating. However much you hear stories of the height of the waves and the ferocity of the storms, it's not until you are actually steering



Rival skippers Tibbs, left, and Golding, of Group 4, in congratulatory mood at the end of their race to Cape Town

into something the size of a house that you can really imagine how it feels - in my case, slightly terrified, but usually only briefly.

The anxiety for me comes with the thought of the other half of the crew safely asleep below while I am steering my somewhat erratic, usual. course. Having absolute confidence in your fellow crew members certainly helps and a

skipper who inspires limitless confidence means we feel we can take on anything and The past five weeks have

been memorable and I would not have missed the experience for anything. However, I can safely say I never want to come here again. The Southern Ocean is an inhospitable place not designed for humans. It has an intimidating, bound-

less power and what sometimes seems like a malevolent spirit. It's actually quite easy to become paranoid that it's out to get you.

experiences have brought out some unlikely literary talents among the crew. Even one of our "rough, tough" bowmen has turned to poetry. He composed an ode to the Southern Ocean that

Your nights are short, your days are long belong

It definitely felt that we were

but only the albatross really

unwelcome visitors. We are now looking forward to the next leg. Warm-water sailing will seem like heaven. My priority is to get my shoulder healed so that I am not

> British No 1. Opponents for Lessing from Holland, the European Cup champion, and, according to Michael Smithwick. the event manager, it is

TRIATHLON

### London event planned as world's largest

THE London Triathlon, to it goes. It is creating great be staged for the first time this year, has been given the seal of approval by Britain's top competitors. Simon Lessing, the Olympic-distance world champion, has been signed for the men's elite race and there will be an unprecedented contest between Britain's leading five

Britain's first mass participation triathlon, to be held in Docklands on September 21, is seeking 5,000 entries. It will be held along the lines of the London Marathon and will be open to elite, club and novice competitors, with a strong emphasis being placed on raising money for

"It has always been a disappointment that there has never been a London Triathlon." Lessing said. What will unique about it is its criterium style, so spectators can see everything. Most people think of triathlons being for athletes who are abnormal, but it is something most people can

Elaine Shaw, the British Triathlon Association chief executive, said of the first race between Britain's leading five women: "This will answer a lot of questions previously unanswered." The San Diego-based Sara

Cox and the Alicante-based Annaleah Emmerson will join Rachel Horn, from Cambridge, Sian Brice, from St Albans, and Loretta Sollars, from Nottingham. in a race to show who is

will include Dennis Looze, "likely" that Luc van Lierde, the Hawaii champion and European short-distance champion, will also line up.

This is an indication that the London Triathlon is really making its mark," Shaw added. "People all over the world are looking to see how

larly in first-class games, is

encapsulated above. Very few,

if any now, of those appointed

to the England and Wales

Cricket Board (ECB)/Inter-

national Cricket Council (ICC)

first-class list of umpires are

formally trained/qualified to

the demanding standards required to satisfy full member-

ship status of the ACU&S and

it is this fact, coupled with

often inadequate peformances

of those on the list, that is

responsible for drawing op-

probrium on the profession of

cricket umpiring.
Until the ECB/ICC drop

their assertion that only (un-

trained, unqualified) former

first-class players make first-

class umpires; democratise the

selection/appointments pro-

cess and work with the

ACU&S to introduce a formal,

national/international grad-

ing system for umpires, nei-ther the situation nor

standards will improve.

Yours faithfully,

interest internationally Horn is the United Kingdom champion. Sollars was her predecessor and Brice. though a relative newcomer to triathlon, is thought to have outstanding potential in the sport.

Emmerson has been better-known as a duathlete than a triathlete, but has been working hard on her swimming and is the United Kingdom middle-distance triathlon champion. Cox was doing well in the International Triathlon Union series before she was interrupted by injury last

Beginning with a swim in West India Dock, incorpo-



Lessing: enthusiast

towards the City Airport and ending with a run in and around the area of Canary Wharf, the event, should it achieve the numbers it is seeking, will require a bike transition area the size of Wembley Stadium.

"We are aiming to be the biggest in the world," Smithwick added. "We are not going to be restricted by lack of vision."

The Mrs Ts Triathlon in Chicago is the biggest at present, attracting 5,000 participants. Britain's largest to date is the Royal Windsor, which catered for 750 com-

A British

FOTTINGHAM

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: WORLD LEAGUE LOOKS FOR LONDONERS TO PUT LAST SEASON'S TROUBLES BEHIND THEM

### Monarchs head west in search of brighter future

By RICHARD WETHERELL

WHILE the World League of American Football (WLAF) kicks off a new season in Amsterdam and Düsseldorf tomorrow, it is the game at Stamford Bridge on Sunday that will receive the greatest scrutiny. Metropolitan bias notwithstanding, the fate and fame of the London Monarchs in the six-team league is seen as the main indicator of the league's health. On the field, they will be looking to improve on their 4-6 record of the

past two seasons. Off the field, they hope their move away from White Hart Lane, the North London home of Tottenham Hotspur, to Chelsea in West London will pay off in increased attendances. They played at Stamford Bridge for last season's final match when, for a meaningless encounter, they attracted more than 11,000, the third-best of five home

Alton Byrd, the Monarchs' new general manager, is used to the problems of trying to make a minor-

ity sport's voice heard. The American has been involved in British basketball for more than a decade and knows his organisation has to improve on last year's troubled campaign, when the head coach was dismissed after two games and the acquisition of William "Refrigerator" Perry proved less than galvanising both on the field and in attracting

> Byrd sees the move as a positive step. "We're not splitting the city, as we had been with Tottenham. It will

make a difference to our fans and to those who have never been before." It is the latter group that needs to swell. Leading the Monarchs from quar-

terback is Stan White, allocated by the New York Giants, of the National Football League, who will be using this year to try to follow the lead of Brad Johnson, the Monarchs' quarterback in 1995 and now the starting quarterback for the Minnesota Viking

The most surprising national player - all the teams have seven non-Americans — is Jason Byworth, a wide

when Margaret Thatcher came to power and has never played an adult game of American football. "I was aiming to make it to this level, but I wasn't expecting things to happen so

There has been no such upheaval in Scotland, who begin their defence of their World League championship with a visit to the new Amsterdam

### **SPORTS LETTERS**

### Cricket needs grading system for umpires

From Mr Barrie Stuart-King

Sir. As a full member of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (ACU&S) and a Surrey Championship and Club Cricket Conference umpire. I must take issue with Mr J. M. Hepworth's letter ("Umpire must be certain", March 28).

To the trained umpire, law 36 (leg before wicket) is one of the easier upon which to adjudge. He has three questions of fact to consider before answering the appeal: first, did the ball pitch in line, wicket-to-wicket, or outside the line of the off stump; or was it intercepted full pitch? If outside the line of the off stump, did the striker attempt to play the ball? Second, was the first point of impact the striker's body or equipment, not his bat or hand holding the bat? Third, was this first point of impact in line wicket to wicket?

The fourth (not second) question the umpire has to ask himself simultaneously is: would the ball have hit the stumps ? This is, of course, subjective, but an experienced umpire does not have a problem with it. Before answering the appeal, he mentally calculates the "travel distance" of the

backs?

ball from point of pitching to ing of umpires is low, particuimpact: any movement of the ball in the air or off the pitch: pitch condition; height of batsman; position of striker's feet: and movement/positioning of the wicketkeeper.

Prior to this — and concen-tration is the key — the umpire will be fully aware of not only the bowler's action, but also from where, in relation to the stumps, he bowls each hall.

As a league umpire, I would be embarrassed to admit that I gave out leg-before only those batsmen who were playing back and were plumb in front" of their stumps. Such an attitude, such a lack of understanding of the law, is unfair to both the bowler and the

fielding side. Mr Hepworth's suggestion that all leg-before and fine edge catches should be referred to a match referee is not only impractical and timeconsuming, but also presupposes that the match referee knows the laws of cricket; and we have a glaring example in a recent Test match - batsman given not out, run out because his foot was on the popping crease - to know that

ROBIN STIEBER,

89 Langthorne Street, SW6.

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by fax to 0171-782 5211.

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daytime telephone number.

BARRIE STUART-KING, Linden, Faulkners Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. this cannot be relied upon.

### Turning the league tables

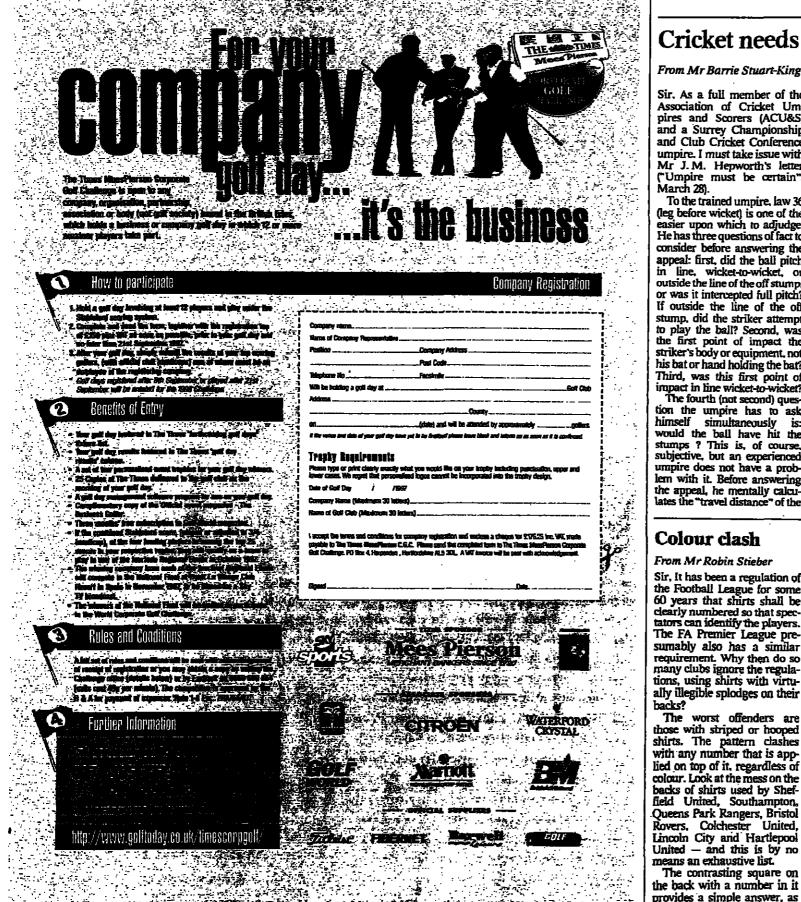
From Mr Stewart Reuben

Sir. Am I alone in finding the order in which football teams are listed in the league tables irritating? Where teams have the same score, they are listed in order of goal difference. To my mind, they should be listed in order of number of matches left to play.

Thus (April 7) Arsenal were listed second with 60 points and a goal difference of +27. Liverpool were shown third, also with 60 points, but a goal difference of +26. Arsenal had played 33 matches and Liverpool only 32. Since they were averaging nearly two points per match, clearly the latter team stood better. Similarly, further down, Chelsea were listed incorrectly above Sheffield Wednesday.

The incorrect order persists through the other divisions as well, of course.

Yours faithfully, STEWART REUBEN, II Haversham Close. Twickenham, Middlesex.



#### The reason why the stand-Colour clash or Plymouth Argyle at present. Even Newcastle United's black square with a white COMPANY GOLF DAYS From Mr Robin Stieber number is too confusing on Sir, It has been a regulation of The componies listed have registered their golf d black and white stripes for the Football League for some for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individ-TITLE SPONSOR clear identification. 60 years that shirts shall be Mees Pierson I wrote to the Football clearly numbered so that spec-tators can identify the players. League last season complaining about Grimsby Town's The FA Premier League pre-Company name appalling shirts and they en-forced the League's regulation on them, but there is still no sumably also has a similar **RUTHERFORD YOUNG** requirement. Why then do so many clubs ignore the regula-DONNS SOLICITORS coherent policy. MEREGASC tions, using shirts with virtu-UNITED DISTILLERS I cannot understand how ally illegible splodges on their GLENEAGLES HOTEL 180 this problem has been allowed to arise. There are two possi-The worst offenders are bilities: either clubs genuinely those with striped or hooped CITROEN believe that their numbers are shirts. The pattern clashes legible or shirt design is with any number that is appcarried out by people who lied on top of it, regardless of think that the numbers are a Marriott colour. Look at the mess on the WMERICRE nuisance which interferes backs of shirts used by Shefwith their artistic freedom. field United, Southampton, Queens Park Rangers, Bristol Yours faithfully,

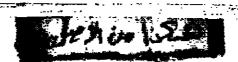
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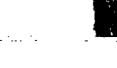
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**RACING:** CRAVEN MEETING AT NEWMARKET OFFERS CLASSIC CANDIDATES THE CHANCE TO SHINE

# Indiscreet strides out on Guineas trail

By Julian Muscat

NEWMARKET plays host to the first classic trial of the season on Tuesday but the E30,000-added Nell Gwyn Stakes - which attracted 12 entrants yesterday - will be overshadowed by a newly instituted conditions race worth £7.500 in added prize-

The presence of Indiscreet, Poteen and Za-Im would grace any classic trial. Yet all three colts are to bypass Thursday's Craven Stakes in favour of the lesser prize two days earlier.

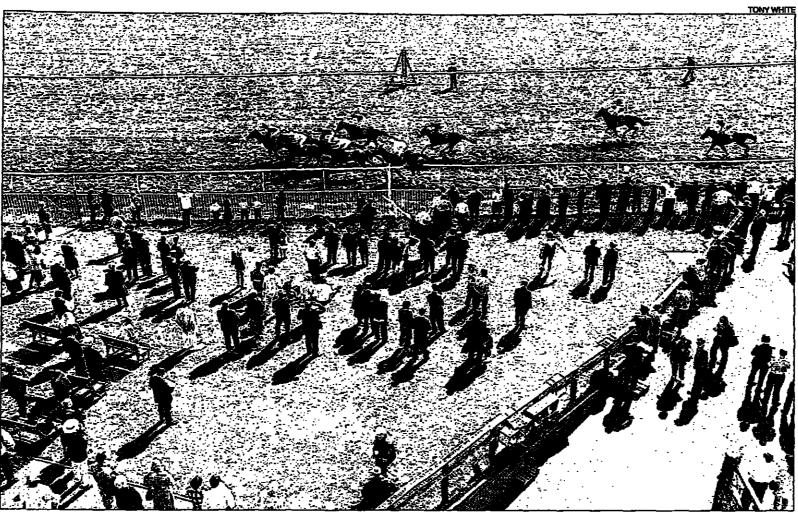
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SEKARI (3.10 Nottingham) Next best: Barrier Ridge (240 Nottingham)

Frankie Dettori has been booked for Indiscreet, an 8-1 chance for the 2,000 Guineas, while Pat Eddery takes the ride aboard Poteen, a 14-1 chance for the season's first classic on May 3.

Indiscreet was ridden by Dettori when he routed a field of maidens at York in August. Trained by David Loder, the son of St Jovite worked with zest at Newmarket on Wednesday, but faces a stern examination here. Whatever the outcome, Dettori is expected to partner the Godolphinowned Shamikh in the 2,000 Guineas. Reports from Dubai suggest Shamikh posted an exceptional time in a key gallop on Monday.

Luca Cumani, who trains Poteen, favours opposing indiscreet rather than waiting for the Greenham Stakes at



Shirtsleeves and summer dresses were much in evidence at Folkestone yesterday as racegoers basked in the spring sunshine

Newbury a week tomorrow. The timing of the Newmarket race is more suitable." he said. It gives us an extra five days before the Guineas, and they have been watering quite well

at Newmarket." Cumani's representative in

the Craven Stakes will be

Grapeshot, whom he reported marginally more forward in condition than Poteen. And the trainer said that One So Wonderful, an impressive winner of her only start at Kempton in September, will head for the 1,000 Guineas

without first tackling a prep

race. "She has pleased in her work, which has not been searching," he said. "I will gallop her more strongly in the next two weeks."

Opposing Indiscreet and Poteen on Tuesday is Za-lm, an easy winner at Newbury in October. But John Hills is to bypass the contest with Reunion in favour of the Nell Gwyn Stakes on the same afternoon. "It looks the easier race so it makes sense for Reunion to chase some black

type," Hills said. The same trainer's Crimson Tide attracted 2,000 Guineas

support with Ladbrokes yesterday, and is now a 25-1 chance from 40-1. He is to reappear in the nine-furlong Feilden Stakes on Thursday. The horse is bred to stay 12 furlongs." Hills said, "but he has been showing plenty of speed at home. We will start

him off over nine furlongs and he can always come back to a mile for the Guineas if he wins

impressively." Barry Hills, who trains Za-Im, is to saddle Elegant Warning in the Nell Gwyn Stakes. A 25-1 chance for the 1,000 Guineas, Elegant Warning will be the shortest-priced classic candidate on show in a race apparently bereft of topclass prospects. Miss Sancerre, comfortably beaten by Baked Alaska - another Nell Gwyn contestant - at Newmarket in October, is Dettori's mount here.

Pas De Reponse, Criquette Head's 1,000 Guineas hope, faces just two rivals, Psylla and Barnata, in the Prix Imprudence at Maisons-Laffitte today. The Clive Brittain-trained Fantastic Fellow and Brian Mechan's Tomba contest the Prix Diebel for colts and geldings.

John Dunlop's prospects of winning a classic were seriously dented with the injury to Bahhare. But he may have a potent 2,000 Guineas replacement in Shawaf, who turns out in the Alex Scott Maiden Stakes at Newmarket on Tuesday. Shawaf's defeat at Ascot in July took connections by surprise - although it later emerged he suffered from sore

Shawaf is one of four trained by Dunlop to have wintered in Dubai. "There is no telling just what he might achieve this season," Dunlop's racing secretary, Marcus Hosgood, said yesterday. "He has done wonderfully well in Dubai and he still holds the 2,000 Guineas entry.

### Stewards take up riding challenge

STEWARDS will swap their bowler hats for riding helmets at Wolverhampton next month when they compete in a specially framed race.

As part of the course's first Sunday fixture on May II, eight officials will contest the "Stewards As Jockeys Handicap" over a mile and a half on the Flat.

Those set to participate include the former National Hunt jockey. Andy Orkney, and Sue Leader, a distant relative of Fred Archer and a school contemporary of Lester

Piggott.
The event is the brainchild of the clerk of the course, Ashley Bealby, who said yesterday: "It has never been done before and we wanted a novel attraction for our first Sunday meeting. What better than to see how the stewards themselves can ride?"

Bealby added: "One wag even suggested that Kieren Fallon should chair the stewards' panel that day.

"We have got eight riders keen and raring to go. They have all been passed by the Jockey Club, the weight range will be 12st 7lb to 10st 7lb and I appeal to trainers to support the race as it would be very disappointing if any of them don't get a ride."

The stewards who are set to take part are: Chris Bealby, Mark Chamber-lain, Major Charlie Lane. Sue Leader, Andy Orkney, Robin Sandys-Clarke, Trevor Whales and Diana

### NOTTINGHAM

2.10 Aficionado

2.40 Barrier Ridge 3.10 Sandstone

3.40 Forest Robin 4.10 Favrana

4.40 William's Well Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Barrier Ridge: 3.10 SEKARI (nap).

GUIDE TO GUR RACECARD

D-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

referent D — distributified) Horse's matrie. Days since last outling: J if humps, F it Rat. (B — 5000 blocks; V + visor H — thoug E — Eyeshaeld. C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — The Times Private Handwapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

SIS

2.10 WATNALL SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: £1,985, 1m 54yd) (12 runners)

BETTING, 7-2 Allclorado, 9-2 Merdraw, Princess of Hearts, 6-1 Champagne On Ice, 8-1 Baptismal Rock, 10-1 Heavenly Dancer, Arvitce, 12-1 others

1996; SISTAR ACT 3-8-7 T Quern (9-2) M Channon 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARCIONADO best Hallmark head in 21-tunner seller of Newmorkel (1m. good) on peruhamate start with PRINCESS OF HEARTS (3th better util) 39-1 yeb. MARDREW 71 3rd of 7 to Merror Four Soort in selling hardicap at Southwell (AW. 1m) PRIN-CESS OF HEARTS 61-9 and 01 11 to Rober Earl in seller at Woherhampton (AW. 61) ALVILDE 14-41 Selection: AFCIONADO

2.40 BASSINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £4,442: 1m 54yd) (13 numers)

442: 1m 54yd) (13 runners)

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O HILLA 183 (H al-Maidroum) A Stewart 9-0 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Roberts 9-1 M Hells 9-1 M Hel BETTING: 11-4 Barries Ridge, 7-2 Chare Red. 4-1 Viva Verdi, 7-1 Green Power, 8-1 Craven HRI, 10-1 Issal, 12-1 Madison Mids. 14-1 others.

1998. CLEVER CLICHE 9-0 Par Eddeny (1-2 tav) H Cepil 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

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3.10 LEVY BOARD STAKES (3-Y-0: £5,234: 1m 54yd) (8 runners)

FORM FOCUS

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NOTTINGHAM



SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. H. Cecil. 16 winners from 58 miners. 27 6%: W. Haggas. 6 from 22, 27 3%; I Baking, 6 from 26, 23.1%, Mass G. Relieves; 4 from 20, 20 0%; J Dunido, 18 from 99, 18,2%; O Nicholis, 3 from 17, 17.6% JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 18 winners from 76 index, 23 7%; L. Dettou, 24 from 15, 19,0%; Paul Eddery, 12 from 70, 17 1%; J Curinn, 13 from 77, 16,9%; R Haylin, 3 from 18, 16,7%; M. Hills. 12 from 75, 16 0%

3.40 ACER COMPUTERS HANDICAP

401	(1)	51-3010	PLRKAR 29 (D.F.5) (McCourt Fire Meats) & McCourt 4-18-0 R Statinoline (7)	9
402	(10)	04000-5	KRISCLETTE 18 (F) (P Idns) G Lewis 4-10-0 Paul Eddery	98
403	(8)	410110-	WHITE PLANES 11J (DJF) (P Labelit Late) M Pipe 4-9-11 R Mailen (5)	90
404	(18)	4000-00	EAGLE CANYON 25 (F.G) (C Lane int) B Hanbury 4-9-10 M Rimmer	94
405	(15)	42060-0	FOREST ROBBL 22 (Platman Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsdan 4-9-10 J Fortains	
405	14)	0/2110-5	ZIDAC 15 (D.BF.F.G) (B Brackgood) ? Makin 5-9-9 Pat Eddery	97
407	(14)	320000	MIGEL'S LAD BJ (CD.F,G) (N Durangton) P Hastam 5-9-8 L Detteri	9
408	(9)	1005-34	MASTER BEVELED 11 (D.F.G.S) (Nes E Williams) P Evens 7-9-8 J F Egan	98
400	(11)	465-	ALFREDO ALFREDO 244 (J Dunios) J Donkop 5-9-3 [ Quiton	93
410	(ri	30/0026-	PEPPERS 151 (N. Neimes-Crocker) it Burke 4-9-1 K Fallon	94
411	(5)	6330-	CLASSIC DAME 187 (Classic Biophistors Pic) I Camphell 4-9-1 D Batterin	91
412	(13)	05-5065	REHAAB 15 (CD.F) (Gales Street Partnersho) D Morris 4-8-10. G Fandiner (5)	B
413	(2)	021600-	FERRIS SOVERBIDE 157 (CD.F.G) (Ferri Companients) W Musson 5-8-8 D R McCabe	96
414	(3) <sub>1</sub>	/122/	BUFFALD RIVER 1724 (The Vor Katers Patherstop) K Morgan 7-8-7 R Hanfin (3)	-
415	(12)	650-	JALB 213 (H. al-Liektern) + 9ears* 5-8-7	90
416	ďη	20-3608	GOLDEN JOUCH 11 (D.F.G.) (45; 2: Gostrey) D. Cosgrave 5-8-7 ## Roberts	93
417	(15)	305200	ATLANTIC MIST 206 (F.S.) (Harasa Patrastra) B LEDman 4-6-6 . B Doyle	92
418	(8)	410-050	ABSOLUTELYSTUMBING 50 (CD.F.G) Mrs 8 Waring 4-8-6. W Ryan	95
OCTA	MC- c	a blance De	and C t this Object T t New Land C t Alberta Monda Taken 10 t Provide C	49 4

1996: ESKANO NEL 5-6-0 J F Egan (100-30) J Spearing 15 can FORM FOCUS

PUNIKAR head Secret Aiy 44 in 10-numer handscap at Lingfleid (AW), Im 20 on peculiamate start RRISCLIFFE about 01 5th of 10 to Sweet Supposin in handscap at Lingfleid (AW), Im 21. WHITE PLANS best effort lest term beat Hawksch 2 in 12-thm) FOREST ROBIN 191 14th of 20 to Sreak The

4.10 TROWELL MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

			THE MINDER HOUSE CHAPTER	
(2-Y	-0: £2	2,277 · 5	il 13yd) (14 runners)	
501	(4)		BBLLOW (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan & pints) H Morreson 8-10 . D Holland	_
502	1111		ELEVENTH DUKE (Lucayan Stud) R Harron 8-10 Pai Eddery	-
503	(12)		RED RISK (The Red Connection) P Harris B-10 L Dettors	_
504	(8)		THECOMERACIONING (I) Shekelisi S Williams 8-10 K Darley	-
505	(1D)	0	FAR-SO-LA 22: The Rest Hill Partnership) T Jones 8-7 R Perham	-
506	1131		FAYRANA (Racespers Club Owners Group (1997)) J Hills 8-5	-
507	(9)		AFTER DAWN 'One Over The Eacht) Mrs P Dustlieto B-2 M Roberts	_
508	(2)	2	CONFECTIS 16 (Camelo) Recentl & Cosontine 3-2 M Carliste	93
509	(6)	3	SEA IMP 8 (M. Meade) M. Meade 8-2	92
510	(1)	6	BLISS 15 (V) Hamson-Allan, Mrs P Durkeld 8-0 F Norton	73
511	(3)		DOM DTS (Mrs D Hughes) & Palling 8-0	_
512	(14)		N/ORY'S JOY R' Mary I ! Mary 8-0	_
513	(5)	34	THEATRE OF DREAMS 11 (BF) (A Notan) P Evens 8-0 J F Egan	æ
514	ñ	٠.	DORTON GRANGE (A Bosley) J Spearing 7-12 J Bosley (7)	Ξ
•		Clause 1	Duke, 4-1 Conects. 5-1 Sea Imp. 6-1 Theatre Of Dreams. 7-1 Dim Dis, 8-1 Fayrana.	10_1
	100 Y		Mac. 4-1 Chiefats 2-1 200 mft for Lineage & Distance 1-1 from per 9-1 referred.	

Bellow, 12-1 others. 1996: SUPERIOR PREMIUM 8-5 A Culture (4-1) R Fahey 10 ion

FORM FOCUS

ELEVENTH DUKE (loaled Feb 21, cest 8 000gm;)
First load by Imperial Frontier, dam, from lamily of present Groups where Setulous, invraced. RED Fisks (Feb 19, 8,000gms). Second fool by Risa Me. half-breiter to Enchanting Eve, dual invoice set 71 and 7m, dam placed once over further FAR-SO-LA text of 15 to Blyeringe Dancer in conditions race at Dontaster (SI, good to firm). FAYRAMA (Afar 29.

4.40 NEW BASFORD HANDICAP

(3-1	70. L	J,JJU. U	1. 1530) (17 · dilitio15)	
601	(9)	52021-	PARLIAZZ 172 (D.G.) (Baucher/Beyrs-Humphrey pires) M Meade 9-7. R Havlin (3)	85
602	(17)	1056-5	JUPITER 11 (S) (6 Bravery) G Bravery 9-7 M Rominer	90
603	(5)		TREASURE TOUCH 11 (CD,F.G) (N Honoyman) D Nicholls 9-7 (7ex) toes Wands (7)	₿
604	(1E)	212210	FORGOTTEN TIMES 13 (D,G) (J. Crock) T. Jones 9-6 N. Cartisle	90
605	(14)	MAC	LUDO 240 (M Pescod) R Hamon 9-4 Pat Eddery	89
505	14)		SUPERCHARMER 53 (RF) (1 Williams) D Michaels 9-4 Alex Greanes	88
			EAGER TO PLEASE 15 (B.D.F.G.) (Alex J Crowley) Miss 6 Authorary 9-4 D Holland	90
607	(11)			
608	(3)		ALWAYS ALIGHT 15 (LI Nobres-Crocker) K Burke 8-11 R Parter	69
609	(10)		NEEN WATERS 16 (R Young) J Arnold 8-9 M Roberts	87
610	(2)	625252	MASTER FOLEY 11 (D.G) (Mountview Ventures) N Latinoden 8-6 T G McLaughlin	98
611	(12)	55004-	CAPAN DHLI 196 (B) (R Thortom) Mr. J Ramsden B-6 J Fortune	86
612	ำกั	2.45547	CHASETOWN FLYER 18 (D Smith) N Beny 8-6 R Pedram	98
				91
613	{B}			
614	(1)		MRKE'S DOUBLE 1) (B) (Contac Promotions Link & Leves 8-3 Paul Eddary	
615	(13)			93
616	(15)	543334	JACK SAYS 10 (k Nicholic) () Shaw B-1 D Wingto	
617	(6)		DISTINCTIVE DREAM 11 (B) (k hory) & bory 7-12	95
BETT	NG: 5-	1 Treasure rchamer, 1	Touch 5-7 Make's Counte Eager To Please, 7-1 Master Foley, 8-1 Calm Disc. 2-1 others	10-1

1996: FARHANA 9-7 T Clumn (7-4 lav) W Jarvis 17 ran FORM FOCUS

TREASURE TOUCH, completed double, beat MASTER FOLEY (9th better off) 31-1 in 18-conner handicap over course and distance (good to lism) with MRCE'S DOUBLE (7th better off) 341 3rd. DISTINCTIVE DOUBLE (7th better off) 341 3rd. DISTINCTIVE DREAM; (10) better off) and 3rd and an and JUPITER (7th better off) 315 th FORGOTTEN TOWN RIVER) beat Mystery Masthaz 3rd in 6-minute start LIDIQ about 31-4 th of 6 to Heasah in mander at LIDIQ about 31-4 th of 6 to Heasah in mander at Selection: TREASURE TOUCH

5.10 SHIPLEY COMMON HANDICAP (£3,382: 1m 6l 15yd) (12 runners) 

Long handcap: Laudu Leve 7-4 DETTRING: 7-2 Placet Sect. 5-1 Sweet Glav. 6-1 Chabrel, 7-1 Chris's Lad, 8-1 Fargue, Respirated: 10-1 Norsong, 12-1 General Glav, 14-1 others 1996: BELLARA 4-5-10 N Ryan (6-1) N Bahhage 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHRISTS LAD best Candle Smotz short-head in 11-number leandicap at Sandican 12m 110rd; good perultimate start DANCING CAVALIER heaf Schemethy Special 1441 in 13-number handicap at Southwell (AW. 2m) perultimate start. BRIGHTER BYFAAH Carbinates (am it good) perultimate start. FORGIE 2hd 2nd of 11 to the 5 Got Yangs in headboard at Recognition 21 mg perultimate start. FORGIE 2hd 2nd of 10 in beautiful and start and declarate (good to firm) Recognition 2 mg perultimate start. FORGIE 2hd 2nd of 5 to Booardyn in apprentices handicap at Massestoph (first 4d good). Selection. CHRIST'S LAD (nap)

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hamilton Park Going: good to soft loood in places

2.50 (1m 65yd) 1, Purchasing Power (S Drowne, 7-4 (r-lav), 2, Step N Go (7-4 (r-lav); 3, Barresbo (7-1) 8, ran 141, 31 N Callaghan Tore (4.20) £1 80, £1 20, £1 40, DF £3 50, CSF £3.76

3.20 (6 5yd) 1, Foist (K Fallon, 5-2 tav); 2, Return Of Amin (11-2); 3, Tropical Beach (8-1), 4, Be Warred (8-1), 18 zan, 259, 71 MW 22.70 DF 29.10, Tho. 225.80 CSF: \$13.69, Tricast: \$95.94

2.50 (5t 4yd) 1, Filey Bngg (k. Falion, 10-1); 2, Risky Whsky (6-11 lav); 3, Anka Lady (16-1), 8 ran 2%, 51 W Kemp Tote: £11 10; £3 70, £1 20. DF £3 60. CSF: £15.12. 4.20 (Im 4/ 17yd) 1. Tumpole (A Culhene, 6-4 lav), 2. Blenhelm Terrace (B-1); 3, Sun Mark (5-7) 7 nan. 3, 31-/ Mrs M Reveley. Tote: 52.70, 51.40, 53.70 DF 530.00 CSF: £13.90.

£13.90.
4.50 f/m 51 Syd1 1. Sea Freedom (S Drowns, 5-1 lav); 2, Karsma (8-1); 3, He's Got Wings (10-1); 4. Northern Moltio (16-1) 18 ran 4, 3.94 G Baiding Tole £4.60; £1 10, £2.95.0 Tno £1.96, £2.80, £4 10, £4 10, DF-22.95.0 Tno £1.97,00 CSF: £38,94, Tricast £389.97.
Jectpoot: £18,428.40 (0.3 wirning lickets, Pool of £18,168.94 carried torward to Nottingham today).
Placaport: £17,30. Cusdpot: £12.70.

Folkestone

Folkestone
Going: good to firm (firm in places)
2.00 (6f) 1. Summerville Wood (P
Fizsmons, 5-1 lev); 2. Scathebury (10-1),
3. Don't Forget Milite (25-1); 4. Velvet Jones
(20-1): 16 ran: 14, 23-1, P. Alconey, Tote:
680; 61 80, 62-70, 65-80, 63-20 DF
(27-80. This: 634-70 (part won Pool of
6391-88 carried lonverd to Notingham 4-40
(oday) CSF: 651-68 Tricest 61, 93-84
2.30 (5f) 1. Levelled (P Murphy, 3-1 lay).
2. Stifle Factors (11-1); 3. Hever Goll
Stormer (20-1): 10 ran: 14, 14 M Chalmont.
Tole: 64-40, 62-40, 65-50, 64-10 DF
(588-70 Trio: 613-580 (part won. Pool of
681-22 carried (obverad to Notingham 4-40
today) CSF: 638-06.
3.00 (1m 7) 62-91); Coh Sho No /7 Outn.,
7-1); 2. Soogama (4-5-tay); 3. Grika (10-1); 7
ran: 11-1, 14/1 S Doir Tote: 610-00; 63-10,
61.20 DF, 65.00 CSF 511-71
3.30 (5f) 1, Beau Venture (T Sprake, 2-1)

3.30 (5) 1, Beau Venture (T Sprake, 2-1 fav), 2. Songshed (8-1), 3, Hever Golf Star (5-2) 7 ran, 131, 114 B Palling Tote, 02.20; 01.50, 04.60 OF 014.40, CSF 017.63 4.00 (fm 4h 1, Premier Night (T Curn, 7-2): 2. Marti Gras (Evens tav); 3. Rere Talent (9-2): 9 ran. 3, 31 S Dow, Tote: 05.90; 19.0. £1.10. £1.20 DF. £3.10 Trice \$3.60 CSF £6.75 CSF £6.75 4.30 (61 189yd) 1, Bubbby (Par Eddery, 8-13 tay), 2, E Sharp (3-1); 3, Wing Of A Prayer (13-2) 6 ran, 21, 31 J Dunlop, Tote, \$1.60, £1.10, £1.90, DF £1.50, CSF; £2.56

E. 10, E130, 143yd; 1, Fresh Fruit Delty (Mr M Spillene, 16-1); 2, Dauphin (9-2); 3, Nais-Tails (5-1) Solder Core 2-1 lav 13 nm 3, ½1 P Kelleway Tote £18.70, £4.90, £1.10, £1.40 0F - £39.60 Tot. £166.70 CSF-£29.63 Tot. £166.70 CSF-£29.239, Troast: £405.35 Placepot: £17.90. Quadpot: £2.00.

Fontwell Park F OF REVOLITY CALK
Going: good to firm (firm in places)
2.10 (2m & 110yd hotle) 1, Aldwick Colormade (W McFarland, 14-1); 2, Beyford
Prince (8-1); 3, Ib. Grand (9-2), Charlie
Parrol 100-30 (av 10 nan. 1), 14M Musher,
Tote: \$14.40; \$3.20, \$1.80, \$1.70 DF;
\$24.60 (in 6.47-50, CSF; \$101.47 Tricest;
\$49.472,
3.40 (2m 6.47-50)

249 72. 2.40 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, Mayor Dundee (A P McCoy, 4-9 lav), 2, Clock Watchers (25-1): 3, Lord Love (50-1), 9 ran 9, ½ M Pipe Tole: £1 50; 51.10, £3.50, £9.40 DF £15.80, Trio: £210.80 CSF: £19.12 215 80. Tro: 2216 80 CSF £19 12 3.10 (3m 2) 110yd ch 1, Credon (B Fenton, 4-1): 2, Sugar Hill (4-1); 3, Master Corredy (10-1) Change The Regn 2-1 fav 7 ran NR Lay t Off 21, 21 S Woodman, Tote: 23 80, 22 30, 82 60 DF £8 90 CSF, £18 49, Tricasi: £123 39 3.40 (3m 3) hotie) 1, Honey Mount (N Williamson, 7-4); 2, Kybo's Revicinge (8-1); 3, Glendine (12-1) Maylin Megic 11-10 fav. 5 ran 3l, 111 N Walker, Totar 52 20; £1 10, £2 80 DF £7.50 CSF £11.89 4.10 (2m 3) ch 1. Cruise Control (D

2 80. DF: £7.50 CSF: £11.89
4.10 (2m 31 ch) 1. Cruise Control (D O'Sultaren, 4-1), 2, Brown Robber (7-2 lev/)
3. Bells Wood (11-1) 9 ran 1 %, 11l. R
Rowel, Tota: £3.00, £1.30, £1.50, £3.50 DF: £5.20 Tno: £3.00 CSF: £15.28
4.40 (2m 21 110yd Indie) 1, Out On A Promise (N Williamson, 2-1 lev), 2. Persan Mystic (16-1); 3, Nighl in A Million (7-1), 10 ran NR Fisto Sandé, 41, %; N Wasker Tota: £3.20, £1.70, £3.30, £2.00, DF: £23.30, Tric. £46.20 CSF £28.76, Tricast, £183.94
(P Hide, 2-1 lay); 2, Mullintor (4-1); 3, Veronica Franco (20-1) 8 ran, NR, Tost Cheffain 2, 2, 1, 3 (Sfrord, Tota £3.10, £1.30, £1.20, £1

Placepot: £79.50, Quadpot: £13.00. ☐ Michael Tebbutt, the iockey, will be out of action for two months after fracturing a bone in his spine.

### BEVERLEY

THUNDERER 2.20 Hopefully, 2.50 Sudden Spin, 3,20 Polar Champ. 3.50 Jay-Owe-Two. 4.20 Maglc Mill. 4.50

The Gay Fox. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating 4.20 MUJOVA.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 scarborough selling stakes (2-Y-0: £2,595: 5f) (10 runners) (2) 4 CAPTAIN BUSS 15 N Tinder 8-11

5-2 Hopefully, 4-1 Captain Blace, 9-2 Who Noze, 7-1 Shindium, 8-1 Just Nobby, My But, 10-1 Miss Berelet, 12-1 others.

2.50 BRIDLINGTON BAY HANDICAP

(£3,1U3: ZM 53YU) (11)				
1	(1)	412-	FRENCH MY 209 (CD,F,G) F Murphy 10-10-0 R Cochrane	92
Ž	(6)		SHEPLEY SUE 153 (D.F.6) M. Johnston 4-9-10 J. Wesner	97
ā	(8)		OUR KRIS 11J (B.F) M Sowershy 5-9-7 J Carroll	98
4	m		REGAL EASILE 242 M Hammond 4-9-5 6 Duffield	92
5	(11)	200-	LUCKY HOOF 7J (V) X Morgan 4-9-3 O Urbina	97
5	(2)		ANCHORENA 18 (F) D Barker 5-8-5 T Williams	95
7	(10)	-154	SUDDEN SPIN 271 (CD.F,S) 1 Norton 7-8-3. J Farming	男
B	(9)	D/L		97
9	(3)		ALCIAN BLUE 444J (F) M Hammond 6-7-13 Date Gibson	-
10	(5)		ROMALITO 17 (F) M Blanshand 7-7-10 R Fbrench (7)	92
11	(4)	-002	TOP PROTE 10 (V,CD,F,G) M Settain 9-7-10	
			D Merragh (7)	90
7-2 Shirley Sue, 4-1 French by, 5-1 Klooko, 7-1 Lucky Hoof, 8-1 Our Kris, 10-1 Algon Blue, 12-1 others				

3.20 WELCOME TO THE PRESS HANDICAP (£3,626: 1m 1l 207yd) (11)

1 (3) 400- CHAMPAGNE PRINCE 169 (C,F) P Harris 4-10-0 4 (7) 510- CELEBRATION CARE 194 (F) Miss L Partial 5-9-6
5 19) DODY DBELOS 15 (DLF) Miss S Wilton 6-9-5 D Mickleywo 95
6 (11) 506- EYMCRAK PROMERS 167 (F.E.S) G Hotnes 9-9-4
N Committee
N Committee
167 (10) 364- PHELSTAR 107 (B.D.G.) J Entert 4-9-1 J Carroll 94
8 (10) 364- PHELSTAR 107 (B.D.G.) J Entert 4-9-1 A Cochrams 90
9 (8) 100- MIGHT OF CLASS 161 (F) J Eyre 4-8-3 ... G Hand 92
10 (6) 410- LAPL-LAPU 158 (DLF) M Camacho 4-9-0 L Chramock 94
11 (2) 000- LUICKY BER 521 (G) MY Extertly 4-7-12 Date (Bibson 94
7-2 Celebration Cale, 5-1 Tertlad, 6-1 Potes Champ. Obelos, 7-1 Champagne Prince, 8-1 Philister, 10-1 others.

3.50 WITHERNSEA HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,743: 7f 100yd) (9)

3-1 Starpo Wassi, 7-2 Jay-Owe-Two, 4-1 Danam Alkel, 7-1 Cee-N-K, The Wyandotte Ins., in Good Nick, 18-1 Wagga Moon, 12-1 others

**4.20** LECONFIELD LIMITED STAKES (£3,379; 71 100yd) (7)

4,50 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN STAKES (£3.639; 5f) (10)

(£3,639: 51) (10)

1 (8) 06 CELLYS RAMBOW 327 R Whitaler 4-9-4 D Mickey mm — R Lappin — 11-4 The Gay Fox, 3-1 Maryletions, 6-1 Archelle, Colway Ritz 8-1 Jedi Knoghi, Prince Dome, 12-1 Sar Ol The Road 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: M Wase, 3 winners from 12 numers, 25 0%, P Hairis, 7 from 29, 24 1%; J Week, 7 from 34, 20,6%, M Johnston, 21 from 113, 18.6%, J Berry, 19 from 105, 18.1%, M Charanon, 7 from 39, 17 9%, JOCKEYS: R Cochrane, 11 winners from 54 ndes, 20 4%, J Weerer, 17 from 117, 14.5%, G Duffield, 9 from 72, 12.5%, T Williams, 5 from 42, 11.3%, F Lyoch, 4 from 34, 11 6%, G Carter, 7 from 70, 10 6% BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Beverley: 2 50 Lucky Hool 320 Philistar, 4,20 Ten Past So: 4 50 Who's That Man. Nottingham: 4,40 Celm Dhu.

### BRIGHTON

THUNDERER

2.00 Prince Foley. 2.30 Jo Maximus. 3.00 Sharp Shuffle. 3.30 Fabulous Mtoto, 4.00 HIGH ON LIFE (nap). 4.30 Boater. 5.00 Apollo Red.

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST 2.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND SOUTHWICK

NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0; £2,416; 5f 59yd) (3 rupners)

5-4 Bannangham Blade, 6-4 Printe Foley, 3-1 Soil Touch, 2.30 ELM GROVE CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,277: 5l 213yd) (13) [£2,277: 5! 21 3yd) (13)

1 0-04 SHAPP PEARL B5 (B,C,F) J White 4-9-8 ... W J O'Connor 11
5 8520 MELLORS 19 (D,G) M Hoston-Biz 4-9-6 ... S Drowne 12
3 -305 JO MAXIMUS 69 (CDF,G) S Cour 5-9-2 ... A Caly (S) 10
4 00-4 PETRACO 11 (D,F,G,S) M Sondi 9-9-0 ... J Brands (S) 13
5 -000 HALBERT 77 (V,C,D,F,G) M Usher 8-8-12 ... P McCaba (3) 7
6 3125 LET BOY 13 (D,F,G) G L Moore 8-9-12 ... Candy Moore 5
7 545 SZZJANG 267 (J,F) R Hambon 5-8-12 ... Dane O'Reid 1
8 MARAGENCA P Hedge 4-8-11 ... R Price 2
9 400 PEARL DAWN 177 (C,D,F,G) P Clarke 7-8-11 ... N Adams 4
10 0-02 BACKHANDER 15 (B) R Philips: 5-8-10 ... J Reid 8
11 CARPTRO LEVEL W B M Turner 4-8-10 ... D McGalfin (7) 9
12 1530 JUSTINAMUS 18 (D,G,S) J Bridge 5-8-10 ... D McGalfin (7) 9
13 -450 LADY WESTBURRY 13 P Ritchers 6-8-1 ... J Lower 6 7-2 Stzeling, 5-1 Sharp Pearl, 6-1 Jo Maximus, Petraco, 8-1 Meltors, Lift Boy, 10-1 Backtrander, 12-1 nihers

3.00 HOLLINGBURY LIMITED STAKES

3.30 SHEEPCOTE VALLEY HANDICAP (£2,277: 1m 3i 196yd) (9)

1 6202 FABULOUS MYOTO 15 (D.F.G) M Saurders 7-10-0 R Poce 1 5 6202 FABULOUS MYOTO 15 (D.F.G) M Saurders 7-10-0 R Poce 1 5 6204 SAPPHRE SON 71 (C.G) P Crarle 5-9-4 ... N Adams 3 3 0-40 COLOUR COUNSELLOR 85 (B.C.D.F.G) R Flower 4-9-0 Dane O'Neil 8 4 71-4 CLETON GAME 6SJ (F) M Crarnson 7-9-0 P P Murphy (S) 5 000- YEATH 217 S Dave 5-9-12 ... A Day (S) 4 6 10-0 LUCY TUTTY 111 (D.S.J. Prearce 6-8-1) C Teague (S) 9 7 -118 VET ASAN 11 (D.B.F.F.G) Mics 6 Kelleway 5-9-9 S Sanders 7 1-18 VET ASAN 11 (D.B.F.F.G) Mics 6 Kelleway 5-9-9 S Candlers 7 9 DO-5 WARRION KING 16 Mrs. P Dattled 3-8-0 S Crowne 2 S Druwne 2 A Estimate Matter 0.2 Conference 6-1 Vest 6-9 DO-5 WARRION KING 16 Mrs. P Dattled 3-8-0 S Convene 2 S Druwne 2 S Convene 1-4 Yel Agent, 3-1 Fabulous Mittin, 9-2 Civition Same, 5-1 Yearb, 8-1 Buncomba Hall, 10-1 Warnior King, 17-1 Lucy Tuffy, 18-1 others

4.00 varindean median auction maiden stakes (3-Y-0; £2,277; 1m 1f 209yd) (7)

1 46-2 HERE'S TO HOWRE 18 R Hamon 9-0 .
2 02- HIGH ON LIFE 182 A Stead 19-0 .
3 000- THE GREEN CREY 161 W Main 9-0 .
4 022- NALIMAT 175 W Jarvis 8-9 .
4 005 MISS BARCELOWA 3 M Progless 8-9 .
7 ROCK IT ROSE J Sengil 8-9 . 7-4 High On Life, 5-2 Kallimal, 3-1 Here: To Howle, 10-1 Northern Touch, 14-1 The Green Grey, Rinci, in Ricseo, 16-1 Miss Barcelona

4.30 CHURCHILL SQUARE HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,044: 7f 214yd) (9)

5.00 Brighton Spring Handicap

1 6-04 FRIENDLY BRAVE 7 (D,F.G,S) Mes 6 Kellandy 7-10-0 6 2021 APOLLO RED 7 (CD.F.G.S) 61 Moore 8-8-2 (7m)
7 60-0 ERRA 11 (D.S) 8 Hammon 8-9-0 ...... Dane O'Nels 7
8 4-14 WITHOUT FRIENDS 8 (D.BF.F.G) J Fisch-Heyes 3-8-12 9 0455 SHARP IMP 7 (B,CDLF.G) R Flower 7-8-7 . S Sundays 8 3-1 Bayin, 4-1 Spender, 5-1 Fuendly Brave, 5-2 Apolto Red, 7-1 Strarp Imp 8-1 Crystal Heights, 70-7 others.

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** 

TRAINERS: W Mair. 8 winners from 40 numers. 20,0%: R Flower, 9 from 45, 19 6%; Mess 6 Kelleway, 8 from 42, 19 6%, 7 Mails, 7 from 37, 18,9%; R O'Sullivan, 12 from 65, 18,5%. J Peace. 4 from 22, 18,2% JOCKEYS: S Sanders, 13 winters from 72 rides, 18.1%, D Harnson, 11 from 66, 16.7%, Dane O'Neld, 11 from 68, 16.2%, P McCabe, 5 from 36, 13.9%; J Reed, 15 from 112, 13.4%.

ATHLETICS: MARATHON RUNNER REMEMBERS HOW LOSING HIS JOB IN SHOE FACTORY PUT HIM ON THE ROAD TO GLORY

# Humble origins help Evans keep feet on the ground

By David Powell, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS YOU visit Paul Evans at his home in Lowestoft, the second thing he says after telling you not to bother locking your car, because there is never any theft down his quiet little road, is that you are now visiting the most easterly town in England. If he has an excuse for one of the the management. most unenviable records in British athletics, it is where he

No athlete, surely, can match Evans's record of missing a flight to help promote a meeting in which he was to compete then, having returned home embarrassed. missed his flight to the race itself. Evans is self-mocking as he recalls the occasion it happened to him. Karen, his wife, said: "The trouble around here is that you get stuck behind tractors or caravans." The road from Lowestoft into East Anglia heartland is mainly single carriageway. One tractor and Stansted never seems to draw any closer.

Evans has lived in Lowestoft, or nearby, most of his life. He admits to a farmer's accent", but, in one respect, he is a big city man. In his last three marathons, in New York, London and Chicago, Evans has not been outside the first three. It would be a surprise if he failed to maintain that sequence in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday.

Evans appears relaxed in his immaculate, brightly decorated, new home - not the hyper character he often appears on the running circuit. He sits in his armchair marvelling at how running, and the six-figure annual income it brings him, has changed his life. He does not want to forget, does not want us to forget, that once he was on the road to nowhere.

Evans, 35, worked for ten years in a shoe factory. "I did not like the job, it was very repetitive and the money was not good," he said. The only saving grace was the camaraderie. He would still be working there, he said, had the factory not closed.

"Getting made redundant wake-up-and-smell-thecoffee-time," he said. Even if he wins the London Marathon for the first time, it is unlikely to move him like the day he was reduced to tears when the shop floor stopped work to applaud the stand he had made against

One round of redundancies had taken place aiready and Evans was or. a three-day week when he was offered £3,000 to appear in a threeweek race through Britain. He asked for time off work, but was refused. He gambled on ignoring the refusal, hoping his job would still be there when he returned. "On the train to Glasgow, every time it



Evans: considerate

stopped I nearly got off," Evans said. "I thought: 'Am I doing the right thing?" He answered his question

with £15,000 in prize-money. At the same time, it was announced that the factory would close. "I went back on the Monday to the shop floor and everybody downed tools and applauded me. It brought tears to my eyes," Evans said. "These guys had just had their world turned upside down, had been made redundant and many of them had worked there from school and were in their fifties and six-

Evans is a caring man. He cares what people think of him and does what he can for those less fortunate than himself.

He works at Ashley Downs, a school for children with learning difficulties, taking them for cross country. Under his training, they won a competition for special schools. "I felt really good, stupid really," he

He is so concerned that acquaintances of old may think success and wealth have affected him that he declined to attend a factory reunion. They asked me if I would draw the raffle, but I decided not to go," he said. "A lot of people at the factory have not done as well as me, there is a lot of unemployment round here and a lot of them still are not working.

"I am one of the few who have gone on to better things. I worked with them for ten years and I did not want to go there and them ask how I was doing. What could I say? 'Oh yeah, I am doing all right. went to Bermuda last week, I am being paid to show my face here, put my shorts on there. That is the last thing I want, so I did not go. I would love to have gone.'

Evans feels "uneasy" that one old school friend cleans his windows and that his best friend from childhood is out of work. "He is still my best friend, but it is awkward," Evans said. "My running has brought me nice things, but he is struggling. I have to watch what I say.

A former footballer, Evans sold his boots to a workmate to pay for his first running shoes. Now Nike send them to me by the box-load," he said. He wears a Tottenham Hotspur tattoo on his right arm, which he regrets now because "sometimes people look at you as if you are going to mug them". Evans is more Samaritan than mugger and some do-

good tasks can be especially poignant. "I actually opened my son's school," he said. They have got a plaque ... Paul Evans ... you would think I was the Queen." Appropriate, then, if he was first to the line outside Buckingham Palace on Sunday.



From the left, Catuna, of Romania, Chepchumba, of Kenya, Xiujuan, of China, and Machado, of Portugal

### Catuna chooses difficult year to make her mark in marathon

David Powell on a Romanian athlete who is keen to conquer new fields



Only in The Times next week: the complete list of London Marathon finishers

"Usually, you get only three or four top runners. Here, you have probably ten."

They include Ren Xiujuan, from China, who, despite being given a second opportunity through an interpreter to make sure what we heard the first time was correct, insisted she wanted a pacemaker to halfway in 71 minutes. Given that no woman in the field has

broken 2hr 26min and that Ren had been saying earlier that her preparation had been affected by a cold, this seemed ambitious.

To find such a capable pacemaker at this short notice is almost impossible. "We had better ring Beijing," Alan Storey, the London Marathon general manager, said. tongue- in-cheek. So Ren. if she is intent on 71 minutes. will be out front on her own. Machado, Catuna and Joyce Thepchumba, runner-up to McColgan last year, each said they wanted in the region of 73

The prospect of the first victory by a Kenyan woman in London is considerable. Chepchumba being one of four elite runners from her

"I have prepared for 2.25, 2.26," Catuna said. Machado went so far as to suggest that,

given a predominantly following wind, Ingrid Kristiansen's world record, set in London in 1985, was not out of

To this observer, Kristiansen's 2hr 21min 6sec is beyond this field, but that does not apply to the men's world record of 2hr 6min 50sec. Antonio Pinto, from Portugal, who has broken 2hr 9min four times, said: "If there is great weather, good pacemaking and the [lead] group helps each other, it is

Pinto admitted frustration at not having moved closer already. "On this course, it is difficult because of the wind, by the marthon world record is probably the easiest world record out there to break." He was not referring simply to road-racing, but athletics in

Given the hot weather this week. Storey said that the number of water bottles available to the mass field would be increased from 500,000 to

### Slough and **Ipswich** challenge for title

BY ALLY RAMSAY

AFTER seven months of endeavour, the winners and losers in the women's national league will be decided with 70 minutes of hustle and bustle tomorrow afternoon. For the first time since the league was formed, the premier division has been wide open from the very start and, as tomorrow dawns, five clubs are desperate for victory to make the season worthwhile.

Slough, who have won the championship four times and who used to be the favourites from the very first whistle of each new campaign, are in pole position, two points clear of Ipswich, but the destination of the title is anything but sure. They head north to play Hightown, the reigning champions, who, although they have only just crawled out of the relegation zone, cannot be relied upon to roll over.

Should Slough stumble on

should slough stamble on their way to the finish line, it would clear the way for lps-wich to win their second title, if they beat Trojans. Trojans, who came steaming up from the first division last year, will not make things easy, as they are in dire need of three points to try to avoid making the return journey through relegation. Attempting to help them on their way will be Leicester and Doncaster, who play off at the bottom of the

It has been a tough year for Trojans. The league campaign of only 14 matches has been too short for them to adapt to the pace of the premier division and, just when they thought they had identified the problems, it is all over. "The lesson we've had to learn is that, while we like to play open hockey, the other sides are better at organising the team to win the tough matches," Mick Crane, the Trojans manager, said.

Crane is counting on Ipswich being as nervous as Trojans at the start, but he is wary of the strength of the opposition should the game descend into a dour scrap, "If we can relax, we have a chance." he said. "The job we have is settling the players down to let them play to their strengths."

**Villeneuve** 

### READER OFFER

THE TIMES

guide to the web

thon racing.

iven the Flora London

Marathon's success in

the novelty depart-

ment, it might be tempting for

the organisers to ask anybody

whose name is a palindrome

to run the race facing forward one year and back-to-front the

next. Anuta Catuna is not

ready for such gimmicks. The

novelty of winning on Sunday

making her London debut,

seeking to add the title to

those she won at the 1995

World Cup and in New York

last year. She has picked a

difficult year to make her

mark. As Manuela Machado,

the European and world

champion, from Portugal,

indicated yesterday, at a press

conference for the overseas

challengers to Liz McColgan,

who is defending her title, this

may prove the most competi-

tive race in the history of

"It is much better quality of

entry] than other marathons I

have run," Machado said.

commercial women's mara-

Catuna, from Romania, is

would be novelty enough.

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> membership, making a total of three months, you will need all six tokens printed this week or three from The Times and two tokens from The Sunday Times. Send your tokens, with the form which will appear again tomorrow, to reach us by Friday April 25, 1997. Full terms and conditions appeared yesterday.



JONES THE BOAL EYES HAT TRICK RECORD

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CHANGING TIMES

# SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This Refresher is about finding the best way to develop an extra

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
	+AK96	-
	♥A 103	
	+AQ42	
<b>4432</b>	N	<b>4 Q 10 8 7</b>
<b>▼Q86</b> 5	W.E	¥K94
+ Q J 10 B 2		•976
<b>+</b> 8		<b>+</b> 193
	<b>♦</b> 35	
	<b>₹</b> J72	
	◆AK5	
	<b>♣</b> K10765	

After South opened One Club North was not to be denied, and drove his side to Six Clubs. The cards fit well, and it is a reasonable contract.

How should you set about it? The first move after winning the diamond lead should be a club to the ace, in case East has the four outstanding clubs. When all follow to the first round of clubs, declarer can count eleven tricks: two spades, one heart, two top diamonds and a diamond ruff, and five clubs in hand. So how should declarer try to develop a twelfth, after drawing

Some players might try a heart, hoping either that West has the king and queen or that he has king or queen doubleton. Another try is to lead a heart from dummy, playing East for Q x or K x.

There is a better play than either of these — declarer should simply lead a low spade towards his jack. This sets up a twelfth trick whenever East has the queen, and if the jack loses to West's queen.

declarer can subsequently lead a low spade and finesse the nine. The only time the spade holding fails to produce an extra trick is when West holds the queen and East the

ten, about a 25 per cent chance. range to draw the second and third round of trumps ending in dummy. If you end in hand, East can scramble your entries. You ruff a diamond after three rounds of trumps, and play a spade from dummy. East rises with the queen and plays a heart, removing the entry before you have un-blocked the spades.

By Philip Howard

a. A trailing ornament b. A trailing net c. Exactly six

WUP a. A fledgling owl b. To wrap up c. Women's Uplift Programme

Notice that you should ar-

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bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

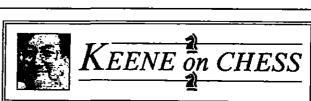
### WORD-WATCHING

b. A carriage manager c. An architectural flourish

**VETTURINO** a. An almond tartlet

XYSTON a. A stringed instrument b. A short spear c. Base of the spine

Answers on page 46



By Raymond Keene CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short revives

After a poor start in the Dos Hermanas tournament Spain, Britain's Nigel Short revived with a long win against the Spanish grandmaster Valery Salov. After a complicated game of sacrifice and counter-sacrifice, both sides made new queens. Short traded off into a winning king and pawn endgame in which the prospect of a white pawn promoting to a third queen caused Black to resign. White: Nigel Short Black: Valery Salov

Dos Hermanas, April 1997 Scandinavian Defence

2 exd5 3 Ni3 4 Be2 5 0-0 Bg4 Nc6 0-0-0 Bxf3 Od7 Ne5 Nxf3 Nf6 Od5 e6 Bd6 Oh5 c6 Nd7

Og3+ Oe5+ Rd6 Rxd5+

### Times book

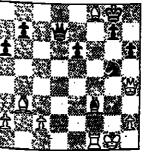
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international master Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing). Raymond Keene writes on

chess Monday to Friday in section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

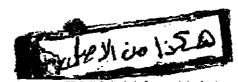
Black to play. This position is the Herbrechtstmeier Eppstein 1984. Black is a rook in arrears, but the white king is dangerously exposed. This proved to be the more relevant factor. Can you see why?



**RUGBY UNION** 

**Financial** 

assistance



### Hill's replacement at Williams is finding it hard to keep up with life in fast lane

# Frentzen rides on vicious learning curve

DAMON HILL, an innately decent man, is intrigued by human frailty. He regards cynicism as an occupa-tional hazard and has learned to detect the slur behind the smile, the contempt cushioned by a handshake. Sitting under a fierce autumnal sun at the Autodromo Oscar A Galvez in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires yesterday afternoon, he gave thanks for such instincts.

for title

"Formula One encapsulates everything we like and loathe about ourselves," Hill said, with a knowing smile. The man who took his job. cloistered in an airless tempo-rary office behind the Williams

garage, concurred.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen is beginning to understand the perils of false flattery, the tyranny of instant judgment. He has, after two races with the team that made Hill a world champion, been dismissed as a weak-willed failure. As absurd as it may appear to those untouched by the institutionalised sensationalism of Formula One, the Argentine Grand Prix this weekend has been billed as his last chance.

Everyone, in this incestuous world, loves a victim. Since Frentzen's soft voice and natural shyness emphasise the impression of sudden vulnerability, he is a

natural target.
Popular fiction along the pitlane suggests that Frenzien was forced to abandon a planned holiday to report to the Williams factory a week ago. where he was supposedly reminded of his shortcomings by Frank Williams, the team owner, and Patrick Head, Williams's technical director.

The truth is rather more prosaic. Frentzen freely chose to report to Grove, in the Oxfordshire countryside, to study telemetric data from the Brazilian Grand Prix.

No one hid from the deficiencies of his race, which were amplified by the victory by Jacques Villeneuve, his team-mate. His discussions with his employers, joined by Tim Preston, his race eningeer, were pointed, but professional.

'Nobody likes bad rumours, especially if they are not true." Frentzen said, self-consciously countering jet lag by swigging from a plastic bottle

MICHAEL CALVIN

On the trials of following in a champion's footsteps

myself," he added. "I came to Williams as the new boy. I am open to ideas and want to develop my experiences. My philosophy is to learn as much as possible, as quickly as possible.

Everyone is too quick to form an opinion. They tell me I can't hold the pressure, that I am a weak egg. There are so many stories flying around, but the people who are telling them don't know me.

"What can I say? If I say I am going to win a race or a champion-

### 'If I say I am going to win a race or a championship people say I am arrogant'

ship, people will say I am arrogant. If I explain what happens when things go wrong, they say I am making excuses. I can't win."

There was no real anger in his words. Instead, he seemed sad to the point of naivete. He did not want to believe that rival drivers, led by David Coulthard and Johnny Herbert, had offered unflattering opinions about his strength of character.

Drivers, however, are mere commodities in a sport that prides itself as a sophisticated market economy. Their selfishness is instinctive, their horizons are limited. It is business,

nothing personal.

As if to emphasise the sums

invested in Frentzen's unproven potential, Rothmans yesterday announced a one-year extension of its sponsorship of the Williams team. The fee, though a closely guarded trade secret, is unlikely to be less than \$30 million.

Frentzen was revealingly blind to the irony of his subsequent admission that he is struggling to come to terms with Hill's hidden legacy, a car set up to be more predictable, less skittish.

"There is still the feeling that there is something in the car which is a secret to me," he said. "It was a question that was bothering me as I was driving during the first two

"I work methodically, step by step, but I can't use the car as I want. It is as if the things I want to find out have disappeared into some sort of Bermuda triangle.

Head, suspicious by inclination of the cult of personality within Formula One, offers measured, yet double-edged, praise. "Heinz-Harald is very talented, but I think he relies on that a bit too much," he

Many are ready to rush to conclusions and read into such comments inferences of a lack of a racer's mentality. Other more measured judges, such as Michael Schumacher, have a more revealing

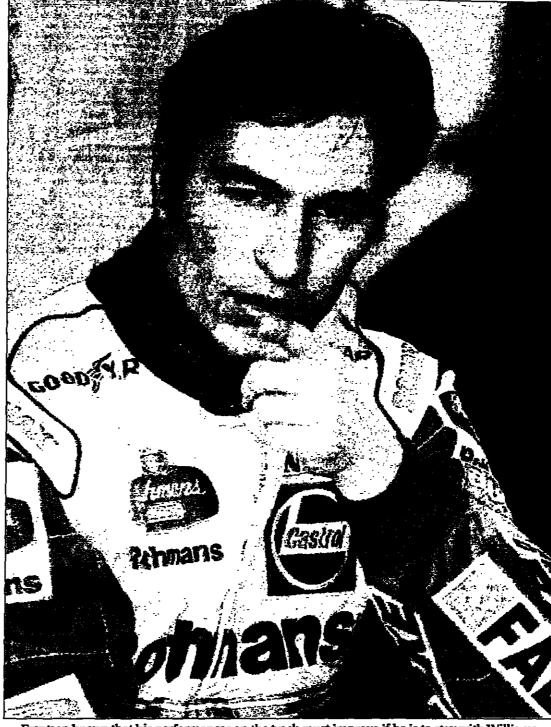
sense of perspective. Schumacher feels his fellow German is suffering from nothing more debilitating than a run of poor luck. He understands, better than anyone, that a Formula One car is a complex jigsaw of 10,000 con-

stituent parts.

It is not easy to join a new team, with a new car," Schumacher said.
"Everyone needs time to find their feet. I did, with Ferrari. Ayrton Senna did, when he first sat in a

Frentzen brightened at the support from an unexpected sector. Things will come right," he said. "I know it is a big job, a big challenge, but I will adapt. I know that Frank Williams is also under pressure. He would wish me to be quicker sooner. but he knows that we win together and we lose together."

But even when teams win together, job security is an alien notion. Just ask Damon Hill.



Frentzen knows that his performances on the track must improve if he is to stay with Williams

### "I am not prepared to lie to defend Villeneuve holds the formula to light up new team



Villeneuve: top choice

By MARK FOGARTY

JACQUES VILLENEUVE. the favourite to win the Formula One drivers' world championship, has emerged as the leading candidate to head a new team that may be launched in Britain. British American Tobacco (BAT) is behind the move to establish a team that could make its debut next year, with Villeneuve possibly joining in

BAT has earmarked as much as E250 million over five years to fund an operation that they hope would be capable of beating established teams such as Williams and McLaren. BAT is preparing to enter Formula One not just as a sponsor, but as an owner or at least leading equity partner - of the new team. The preferred plan of the company is to have Villeneuve

driving a car — already dubbed the "BATmobile" built by Reynard, the British company responsible for the winner of the North American IndyCar title for the past two years, and designed by Adrian Newey, the Williams engineer, who is trying to negotiate an early release from his

BAT wanted Villeneuve and his possible world champion's No l plate for the team's proposed launch next year. but The Times has learned that Villeneuve has re-signed with Williams for another year and will not be available until 1999. BAT is looking at other leading drivers - including Damon Hill - as an interim measure if it decides to

start the team next year. "BAT will own the team." a source close to the company

said. They definitely want

equity -- 50-50 at least. It's

going to turn the Formula One world on its ear. It will involve a lot of big names and a lot of surprises. They have everything lined up. They're only going to do it to win, not just compete, right from the Another source said that the BAT board of directors had

ising a budget of £150-250 million for an initial five-year commitment. "It's as big a deal as anything else in Fl," the source said. BAT spends an estimated \$250 million (about £155 million) a year on sports sponsor-

approved the project, author-

ships, including support of the British-run 555 Subaru world rally championship and the Lucky Strike Suzuki 500cc motorcycle racing team.

A senior BAT executive confirmed that the group was planning to become a significant presence in Formula One.

"BAT has made it common knowledge (within the Formula One fraternity] that it would like to get involved in Formula One," the executive said.

He admitted that Reynard was one of the candidates to provide the technical foundation and operating infrastructure of the team. "We have had discussions with four potential partners, who will make presentations to us during the next four to six weeks. we find that one of the options has what it takes to do the job, then it is our intention to make a pretty significant entry into Formula One.

We realise that we have to make a decision before June if it's going to happen next year. We're definitely at a very serious stage."

BAT wants to build its Formula One team around Villeneuve, winner of the Brazilian Grand Prix. and the financial incentives offered to persaude him to leave Williams at the end of the year included a small share in the team, but Frank Williams, the team owner, has headed off the move by re-signing the

French-Canadian for a third "Jacques will be staying here in 1998," Williams said, before confirming that he was aware of BAT's bid to "poach" Villeneuve, "Jacques will be a free agent after 1998," he said. "but he will always drive where he believes he has the best chance of winning the world championship."

Although the establishment of an new team in partnership with Reynard remains BAT's preferred option, there is still the possibility that the company could buy an existing operation. However, the former outlook is consistent with the qualified denials of Adrian

Revnard, the founder and president of Reynard Racing Cars, who said that he could not have a Formula One team in operation by next year.

"We're not going into For mula One that soon," Reynard said yesterday. "I'm not ready to do it." But while he denied his company was working on a Formula One project, he did not dismiss the possibility of becoming involved in the proposed BAT team. "I'm not denying that we might be being considered. I'm saying that we have no immediate Formula One plans.

"It's fair to say that we want to do Formula One at some stage in a way that's appropriate. Jacques Villeneuve being touted and he would do an excellent job. He would be perfect. If Villeneuve and BAT were prepared to wait for us, it wouldn't be out of the auestion.

sought by Llanelli

BY DAVID HANDS

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT FOUR leading clubs in Eng-land and Wales are taking contrasting steps to ensure financial stability for further development in the professional era, but whereas Sale and Gloucester seem likely to secure strong commercial back-ing, Cardiff and Llanelli are looking for the support of their

members through share-op-Of that quarter, Llanelli's plight is the most precarious, at a time when they are playing rugby as attractive as any in Wales and, on Sunday. seek a place in the Swalec Cup final — at the expense of Cardiff. Members have been appraised by Stuart Gallacher, the chairman, who seeks guidance on the money that can be raised from within: The future of the club hangs in the balance." Gallacher has

told members Llanelli will be £700,000 in debt on the present financial year, but hope to raise more than that sum on a share offer. on the basis that no significant investor has yet appeared; they could raise cash through the sale of their Stradey Park ground, leasing it back for a 25-year period, but that is their least favoured option.

Cardiff hope to raise a minimum of El million by floating shares and Peter Thomas, their chairman. whose financial backing has kept the club to the fore, has stepped down from his wider administrative commitments in rugby to concentrate on the club's future.

Meanwhile, Sale's members met last night to hear of the would secure the professional element of the club and Gloucester hold a special meeting tonight for the same

purpose. mer national coach, has been named as the Scotland manager for the summer tour of South Africa. The party will be named on Wednesday.

**GOLF** 

### Radley add to City's poor record

By a Correspondent

THERE were lew surprises yesterday in the first day's play of the Halford Hewitt Foursomes, the annual public school old boys' competition. which is now in its 66th

Held jointly at Royal Cinque Ports and Royal St George's, it was a good day for a number of the tournament favourites as the 64 teams, each with five players, enjoyed the superb conditions.

Radley, who won the trophy for the first time last year, had comfortable 4-1 win over City of London, who hold the unenviable record of being the fourth-worst team in the hist-

ory of the event. Elsewhere, Harrow, who last held the title two years ago and who have won the highest proportion of matches in the competition, recorded a whitewash over Bishop's Stortford. with all five Harrow players

winning their matches.

The day's closest encounter was the match between between Bradfield and Trent, finished 3-2 Bradfield's favour. Also through to today's second round are Edinburgh, who demolished Framlingham 50. Berkhamsted, who beat Aldenham 4-1, and Merchiston, who overcame Welling-

CRICKET: SCOTLAND AND IRELAND FRUSTRATED IN WORLD CUP BID

### Rain returns to interrupt play-off

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE ICC Trophy third-place play-off between Ireland and Scotland. the winners of which will earn a place in the 1999 World Cup finals. was interrupted by yet more rain here yesterday.

Play started promptly at the Kilat club for the first time in the final series of matches, but it lasted only long enough for Scotland to nudge their way to 56 for one off 19 overs.

The volume of rain that fell was not great, but its effect on an outfield that must be sodden below the surface was to create several

small lakes that were ankle deep in places. Daryll Hair and Srinivas Venkataraghavan, the umpires, sensibly called play off at lunchtime and then floated the idea of playing a fresh. 20-over game today if there is no prospect of finishing the original match.

The proposal was quickly backed by the Scots, who will finish fourth and miss out on the World Cup should the game not be completed. but organisers last night ruled out any late change to the tournament playing conditions.

The rain may yet work to Scotland's advantage. With only lain Philip dismissed, top edging a legside flick to cover, they are well placed to set a challenging target. A minimum of 20 overs per side must be bowled in order for the match to produce a result

SCOTLAND

I. Philip c Dosk b McCrum

I. R Lockhein not our

I. J Smith not our

Xtras (Ib 4 w 9; Total (1 wkt, 19 overs) . \*G Salmond, J G Wallarmon, M J D Allingham, tA G Davies, I R Beven, S R kennedy, K Thomson and K L P Shenden to bar

FALL OF WICHET 1-19 BOWLING Gilespie 5-1-10-0; McCnim 7-1-14-1; Hernson 2-0-11-0; Hernson 2-0-11-0; Hernson 2-0-3-0.

IRELAND, D.J.Curry, A.D.Parterson, D.A.Lawis, "J.D. R.Benson, N.G.Doak, A.R.Dunkop, D.Heesley, P.G. Gillespie, G.D.Hamson, M.W.Patterson, P.McCrum

**BOWLS:** HANDY CROSS REACH FINAL OF INDOOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

### Favourites slip to surprise defeat

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

ALAN SPRINGELL and Gary Grace, of the Handy Cross Club. High Wycombe, pulled off a surprise 19-18 win over Simon Stevens and lan Bond, of Exeter's historic Exonia Club, in the semi-finals of the national indoor pairs championships at Melton Mowbray yesterday.

Bond, who became England's youngest singles champion two years ago when he was 20, and Stevens, who is 29, had established themselves as favourites to win the title after sweeping through the first three rounds, scoring 73 shots and

conceding only 29. That Bond, of slender build, is made of sterner stuff than first appearance would suggest was proved when he beat fan Schuback, of Australia, on the way to the quarter-finals of the world indoor singles championship at Preston in 1995.

The Devonians took an early lead over the Buckinghamshire pair, but were pegged back in midgame and had lost the lead by the seventeenth end.

Handy Cross, 18-17 ahead after 19 ends, scored a vital single when Bond missed narrowly with a series of firing shots, then clinched their place in the final when they

through their first-round encounter with Falcon, but showed their paces with a 31-13 second-round victory over British Cellophane, then quelled a strong challenge from Ken Bousfield, of Darlington, and his nephew. Tony Bousfield, in the quarter-finals.

Steve Airey and Noel Burrows, the Blackpool Borough crown green bowlers, reached the semi-finals with a 22-17 win over the 1992 champions, Ted and Iain Boyle, from York.

dropped a single on the 21st end. Springell and Grace had scraped

Results, page 45

Microsoft

FOOTBALL: ABSENCE OF KEY MIDFIELD PLAYER GIVES HIGH GROUND TO GERMANS IN EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL

# Keane sense of loss adds to United's suffering



Ferguson: critical

BY OUVER HOLT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER United stayed on in Germany yesterday and took to the playing fields of Prussia to try to find a pre-emptive cure for the European hangover that always seems to affect them on their return from playing abroad. Their FA Carling Premier-ship match against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park tomorrow may already have been occupying their thoughts, but everyone else still had Borussia Dortmund on their

As he struggled through Düsseldorf airport, posing obediently for the crowds of British teenagers who wanted their picture taken with him. signing autographs at every turn. Terry Venables, the former England coach, was upbeat. If United could get an early goal in the second leg at Old Trafford on April 23, he said, the match could develop into a rout,

In a quieter corner of the departure lounge, Glenn Hoddle, Venables's successor, was more circumspect about the English champions' chances of overcoming the one-goal advantage the Germans had earned in the first half of their semi-final, courtesy of a late deflected shot by René Tretschok.

Nicky Butt and Gary Neville had shared the distinction of being the best players on the pitch with Andreas Möller, he said, but he feared that the Germans' ability to score a goal on the counter-attack could kill off the return fixture and ruin United's dream of playing in the European Cup final in Munich on May 28, almost certainly against

In other circumstances, perhaps. Dortmund's slender advantage, coupled with the dominance that United enjoyed throughout the second half at the Westfalenstadion on Wednesday night, would be grounds for hope verging on expectation that Tretschok's goal could be wiped out in Manchester and that Dortmund could be overhauled. United have done that and more before, as a Barcelona team containing Diego Maradona once found out.

But these circumstances are different. The United team that competed so sturdily here will be significantly weakened in the return leg by the absence of Roy Keane after the Irishman was booked for the second time in the competition. "He never touched the player." Alex Ferguson. the United manager, said. They both missed the ball."

Perhaps even more important, the German champions will be immeasurably strengthened by the return of Matthias Sammer, the European footballer of the year, in their

Sammer, missing on Wednesday because of suspension, is likely to stretch a central midfield that will probably be composed of Butt and Ronnie Johnsen by stepping out of

The Dortmund players, in fact, will be swarming back in droves. Six firstteam regulars were injured on Wednesday night, but men such as Stephane Chapuisat, Kartheinz Riedle, Jürgen Kohler and possibly even Steffen Freund are likely to bring Borussia back to almost full

strength.
United, of course, could still do it. The atmosphere so hostile for United and intoxicating for Dortmund in the Westfalenstadion will inspire United at Old Trafford, although the Germans are unlikely to be swept away in the turnult as FC Porto were in the quarter-finals. In United's favour, though, Peter Schmeichel, their Denmark goalkeeper, who was forced to pull out of the match on Wednesday at the last minute with a back injury, and David May, a late victim of a thigh strain, should be fit to bolster

the Premiership leaders' defence.

Although he would only admit

day night, privately the Dortmund coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, is thought to consider that his team have done the hard part now, survived the chances that United made, rode the luck that every team needs and that they will be hard to overcome on foreign soil. just as they have been throughout the

competition so far.

After Venables and Hoddle had had their say, a third from the ranks of the great and the good put forward a more bullish view on the prospects of the two teams. Franz Beckenbauer, his hair grey now as a kaiser's should be, has played his part in battles with the English and he was in no doubt about who held the high ground.

"It was important for Borussia Dortmund that they did not concede a goal," Beckenbauer said. "Manchester United have a very bad defence and because of that I think Dortmund can also score at Old Trafford and go through to the final."

**EQUESTRIANISM** 

whaller.

### **Skelton has** last chance to qualify for World **Cup final**

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

NICK SKELTON, the winner of the Volvo Showjumping World Cup in 1995 and placed third last year, has his last chance to qualify for this year's final when he competes at the 's-Hertogenbosch Show in Holland this weekend.

The World Cup preliminary round on Sunday is the last of the 15 qualifiers before the final in Gothenburg, Sweden. Only those in the top 18 of the Western European League qualify. Skelton, who lost the ride on his 1995 winner, Dollar Girl, in December, is in joint-26th place and needs to finish in the top three on Sunday to earn his ticket.

He is taking no chances. Having failed to reach the jump-off in both the Paris and Dortmund qualifiers last month — where he rode Zalza and Tinka's Boy, respectively

— he will revert to his Olympic horse, Showtime, this week-

John and Michael Whitaker, who also compete, have no such pressure on them. Since their disappointing performances in the Olympic Games in Atlanta, they have scarcely put a foot wrong and are first and second in the league. John, who has missed only one final since the World Cup started in 1979, won the qualifiers in Berlin and Paris. on Welham — the horse he rides on Sunday — and Bologna, on Grannusch.

Michael, whose best placing in the final was third in 1994. was runner-up in Bologna, on Ashley, the horse he rides this weekend, and third in Dortmund and London. The main concern for these two is to keep their horses sweet for the final next month.

Of the other two Britons competing, Geoff Billington, who was sixth in the 1995 World Cup, is in joint-eleventh place in the league and Robert Smith lies more precariously in nineteenth place. Billington is likely to improve his place on Sunday when he rides his Olympic horse, It's Otto, on which he finished sixth - the highest-placed Briton — in Atlanta. The Dutch gelding has proved himself equally adept indoors, finishing third in Paris and Bologna this spring and runner-up in Berlin last November.

Robert Smith, who needs a good performance to secure his place, will ride Tees Hanauer, on which he won the London qualifier in December. He is optimistic about his chances: "The horse is experienced and knows it all. He's also had a three-week rest since his last show in Zurich and he's better after a

The Britons' main opposition is likely to come from the Germans, who are sending all four members of their Olympic gold medal-winning team Ulrich Kirchhoff, who also won the individual gold medal, Ludger Beerbaum, winner of the 1993 World Cup, Franke Sloothaak, the world champion, and Lars Nieberg.

The three-day show also hosts the final of the Volvo World Cup dressage, in which Anky van Grunsven, of Holland, on Bonfire, the winner of the team and individual silver medals in Atlanta, is attempting a third successive win. Britain has only one qualifier, Richard Davison, who competes on his Olympic horse,

# Chesterfield in awe as final frontier approaches

**Richard Hobson** on the team out to defy

o reach the FA Cup Final is a small step for Middlesbrough, but a giant leap for Chesterfield. Six times before, teams from the old third division have featured in the semi-finals of the Cup. All six failed and logic dictates that Chesterfield will suffer the same fate at Old Trafford on

The problem is that, by accepting such an assessment, Chesterfield will effectively concede defeat. Somehow, a squad assembled at a cost of £415.000 has to consider itself the equal of opponents costing £22.5 million. Tom Curtis, a free transfer from Derby County, who played part-time



for three years while studying at university, has to prove himself the equal of Emerson: Sean Dyche, a trainee at Nottingham Forest, who came into Brian Clough's thoughts only when he tended the great man's garden, must nullify the threat of Fabrizio Ravanelli. These are but two apparent mismatches. So how to even the balance?

In the 1954-55 season, York City found themselves in a similar position when they faced Newcastle United, winners of the Cup twice in the previous four years. Ernie Phillips, the captain, said: "We surprised Newcastle early on because we did not rush anything. That told them we were not worried and they began to panic. By the final whistle, they were relieved to have drawn, although they did beat us in the replay."

The acumen of those tactics is confirmed by John Hore, the manager of Plymouth Argyle in 1983-84, when they beat Derby County in the quarterfinals to set up a tie against Watford. Hore exuded calm

John Motson at lunchtime on the Saturday and he was flabbergasted at how relaxed I was," Hore said. "I think that might have got to Watford because when I exchanged team-sheets with Graham Taylor [the Watford manager] before kick-off, his hand was shaking like a leaf. I went back to the dressing-room to tell the lads and I think it finally convinced them they could

The difficulty is in striking the balance between being relaxed yet still committed. Victory against Bury in the third division play-off final at Wembley two years ago suggests that Chesterfield can cope with the big occasion, but on that afternoon the attendance was just 22,000. They attracted little more than 4,000 for their Nationwide League second division game against Watford on Tuesday night; on Sunday, Old Trafford will be

John Duncan, the manager, took his players to the Manchester United ground on Thursday last week in an attempt to acclimatise. According to Dyche, the captain, they looked into the huge stands in awe - and that was when they were empty. For the first time this season, the club will stay in a hotel overnight.

underdogs have nothing to lose. There is something peculiarly English about a sentiment that implicitly accepts glorious defeat. In this case, the reality is that the Chesterfield players are unlikely to have a better opportunity of appearing in an FA Cup Final. Those townsfolk who bought most of the 21,000 tickets the day that they were put on sale and the shop-owners who

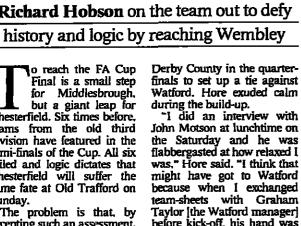
during the build-up.
I did an interview with

win. We went wrong by con-ceding an early goal."

full to its 55,000 capacity.

It is often said that the

have bedecked their frontages



FALLERS AT THE LAST ... THE SIX THIRD DIVISION FA CUP SEMI-FINALISTS generated record receipts for a semi-final of £20,086, felt the challenge was made outside the penalty area. The referse thought otherwise and Ronnie Allen converted from the penalty spot. Despite losing 2-1, Vale recovered to finish the season as third division pode thermices. 1937 MILWALL Scored 22 goals on the way to the semi-linal and beat Manchester City, who became league champions, to reach the last four. By then, their player-manager, David Mangnall, had earned the nickname "David the Giant Killer". The third division south side went ahead in the semi-final against Sunderland at Huddersfield's old Leeds Road ground, but eventually lost third division north champions.

Leeds Road ground, but eventually lost

1954 PORT YALE

penalty decision that denied Vale a semi-final replay against West Bromwich Albion. Tom Cheadle brought down George Lee, but most of the crowd at Villa Park, which

ing blow.

and balloons - this, ironicalto want to win more than anything else in the world. My ly, in a Labour stronghold own attitude is that whatever can take pride in coming this far. Among the players, defeat round of the Cup you are in, you have to be disappointed if must be regarded as a shatteryou do not reach the next one, "I genuinely do not know if but they will walk out to something they have never

1955 YORK CITY --

Refreshed by an overnight stay in Matlock and encouraged by the ten shilling win bonus on offer, York took a Newcastle United side, including

a Newcastle United side, including Jackie Mithoum, to a replay before losing 2-0 at Hillsborough. The first game was played on a waterlogged pitch, which proved to be a great leveller, but class toold during the second game. York had reached the tast four without a manager having failed to replace Jimmy McCormick, who had resigned the previous September.

the players are pleased to have got this far," Duncan, a Scot-tish League Cup-winner as a experienced before and I do not know how they will cope. "You cannot buy chemistry player with Dundee in 1974, between people, but you can

### 1959 NORWICH CITY

Duncan makes the case for Chesterfield to the media before the FA Cup semi-final with Middlesbrough. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

Another side to take their first division Another side to take their first division opponents to a replay, Norwich lost 1-0 to Luton Town in the second game at St Andrews with the future Northern Ireland manager, Billy Bingham, scoring the decisive goal. Their run received massive publicity from the third-round win against Matt Busby's Manchester United orwards. In the quenter-final against Sheffield United, Ken Nethercott played for 60 minutes with a dislocated shoulder. Their league form dipped, however.

1976 CRYSTAL PALACE With his big cigar and fedora hat, Malcolm Allison cut a distincive figure

Malcohm Allison cut a districtive figure as he led Palace into the last four, but they were hugely disappointing in losing 2-0 to Southampton, from the buy a player with good discipline, good heart, courage and

dissect teams individual by individual because you want Il players whose strengths complement each other. My job this weekend is to pick my Il and then see if we are good

the determination to overcome

problems. You should not

enough." Yet within the team there is second division, at Stamford Bridge to goals from Peach and Glichrist. Tommy Docherty had described the game as "a bit of a joke", but was made to look sheepish when his own Manchester United side lost to Southampton in the final, the final sympton is easenn hit of shocks. surprise in a season full of shocks.

1984 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Against a Watford side renowned for Against a wainord side renowned in its direct approach, Plymouth pushed forward retentlessly without being able to equalise George Reifly's goal. More than 20,000 supporters made the journey to Villa Park from the South West, around four times their variances they drive. South West, around tour times they average attendance. John Hore, the manager, made a rod for his own back by raising so many ambitions. After a poor start to the tollowing season, he was sacked, using his compensation money to invest in a health chi in Eveter. health club in Exeter

the chance for individuals to shine. Dyche admits that he would seize the chance to play at a higher level and recognises the importance of Sun-day in that regard. "Nobody will buy a player on the back of one performance, but there is a difference between doing well against somebody from your own division and playing

in the world in a pressure situation," Dyche said. "Every player at the lower levels wants to better himself and this is a great opportunity."

The experience of Peter Taylor provides a perfect illustration. A winger with Crystal Palace in 1975-76, when they lost to Southampton in the semi-finals, he became the first England international from the third division for 15 years and eventually joined Tottenham Hotspur.

Chesterfield have put so much into their run. Realistically, it will cost them the chance of competing in the play-offs. Middlesbrough, though, remain in difficulties in the FA Carling Premiership and face Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup final replay next Wednesday. With so many distractions, Hore senses that the favourites

might struggle. Chesterfield have a better chance than people imagine and that will work in their favour," Hore said. "Sides from the old third division have pulled off shocks before. One day, it will happen in a semi-final. I know, because Plymouth almost did it."

#### with blue-and-white garlands said. "I have brought them up against one of the best strikers Feuding Chelsea pair grow further apart

By Brian Gianville

RUUD GULLIT and Gianluca Vialli have probably reached the point of no return, after Cheisea's 3-0 home defeat against Arsenal last Saturday. "This town," they might say, as is said in the Westerns. "ain't big enough for both of us." Gullit has been tactless, Vialli feels humiliated. As Italian stars do, he has given soft answers in England, but spoken grievous words on Italian television. But to call Gullit jealous of Vialli surely borders on

absurdity. In this respect, Fabio Capello, the former manager of AC Milan, now manager of Real Madrid, has been called in support. He had accused Gullit of "arrogance" when once he brought himself on in attack, rather than take Vialli off the bench, "when everyone knows Gullit's finished as a player. He didn't get any-where near the ball."

The fact is that Gullit is far from finished as a player. He remains, potentially, a majestic figure, though he himself

be quite happy to stop playing. Remember, too, that Capello is not entirely an objective observer. Under his aegis at Milan, Gullit twice in season left the club for Sampdoria, the second time after an unhappy stay when he no longer seemed persona

grata in the dressing room.
It has been alleged that for every "Gullit" shirt sold by the Chelsea club shop, 25 have been sold of Vialli's, a figure that the club shop dismisses, In any case, what would it matter?

It would surely be astounding if a player as proud and celebrated as Vialli did not feel badly about his exclusion from the team. He reacted bitterly to being dropped by the then manager, Arrigo Sacchi, from Italy's squad for the 1994 World Cup finals. When it seemed that they might be reconciled, Vialli learnt, to his fury, that Sacchi, never the most tactful of men, had carried out polls among his players. Many of them came from Milan and Vialli was given the thumbs-down. own club, Juventus, the answer was positive. Stand-offs between famous

players and a dominating manager are commonplace of football history, not least in Italy. "He's mad!" Roberto Baggio said after Sacchi pulled him off at the Giants Stadium during the World Cup game against Norway in 1994, after Pagliuca, the Italy goalkeeper, had been sent off. Despite the subsequent, vital World Cup goals he scored,



Vialli: humiliated

Sacchi. He was publicly horrified this season when Sacchi returned as manager of Milan and then promptly dropped him from the team.

At least Chelsea have kept Vialli, even if, at the end of this season, he moves to pastures new, probably in Italy. Juventus, by contrast, jettisoned him last season, even though he had just captained the team that won the Euro-

And what of the emotional Fabrizio Ravanelli, "the White Feather", scorer of Juve's goal in that European Cup final? Within weeks, he was summoned from his native Perugia to Turin and told that he was on his way. "Like a boit from the blue," he cried, as he often does. There, indeed, was humilia-

Italian critic remarked, Ravanelli had publicly told his coach. Marcello Lippi, to go to hell once too often. What Chelsea have suffered from is simply an embarrass-

ment of riches. The evening

tion for you - though, as an

how he would accommodate Zola, Mark Hughes and Vialli in attack. He replied that he might play all three of them. It did not work and when Vialli partnered Hughes, they duplicated rather than complemented one another. Once it grew clear that Hughes and Zola worked wonderfully together. Gullit was on the

horns of a dilemma. You might criticise him for asking his players which formation they preferred, hearing a response that they wanted two players up front managers should make up their own minds - but there can be no doubt that this was the ideal solution. Vialli can console himself

that when he did leave

Juventus, it was, thanks to the Bosman ruling, on a free transfer — and that, as the main man in Italy's players' union, he had extended that concession to domestic transfers. Meanwhile, you can understand his frustration. Even if this is scarcely the first case Gianfranco Zola arrived from of its kind.

### Allner nurses English patient NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

the game to rail against the

FOR Graham Allner, the Kidderminister Harriers manager and England semiprofessional team assistant manager, the sight of Lee Hughes, his much-coveted striker, limping off after half an hour of England's match in Holland on Tuesday was the last thing he needed.

"Lee's ankle was swollen, but we still don't know how serious it is," Allner said after Hughes had received a kick when leading Holland a merry dance in a match that finished as a 0-0 draw. Hughes had hit the bar and

England had twice had goals disallowed for offside in a match for which they were denied Stevenage Borough and Woking players, who were involved in Vauxhall Conference matches.

"Ron Reid [the England manager and I discussed it on the way home," Aliner said. "We agreed the timing of the match was not ideal, but with England we have to be grateful for what we can get."

injustice of possibly losing Hughes for the first leg of the Spalding Cup final against Macclesfield Town at Aggborough tomorrow and the Conference game against Woking on Monday.

Macclesfield, meanwhile, have reason to thank the distractions from Conference football that continue with a Staffordshire Cup semi-final against Hednesford Town on Tuesday and the Cheshire Senior Cup final against Hyde United tomorrow week, because the break will absorb suspensions for John Askey and Chris Byrne.

If the points dropped by Macclesfield and Stevenage have kept Kidderminister's Conference hopes alive, one of their erstwhile rivals from West Midland League days, Tamworth, have put their anxieties behind them.

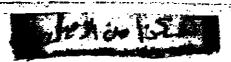
Tamworth made certain of the Dr Martens League midland division title by beating ul for what we can get."

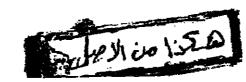
Stafford Rangers away last
Allner has been too long in
Saturday, having already cele-

brated after a home win over Shepshed Dynamo that all but confirmed them as champions.

it was a case of third time lucky for Paul Hendrie, the manager, whose promotion dream exploded in a winnertakes-all match against likeston Town two years ago that Tamworth lost 7-1 and last year ran aground when Tamworth's form dried up in the final weeks of the season.

The Scotsman, who scored the winning goal for Halifax Town against Manchester City in their memorable FA Cup upset of 1980, has repaid the faith of Bob Andrews, the club chairman, and also proved an inspiration to the supporters. His birthday recently inspired a "McHendrie day", when fans turned up in kilts and Russ Abbott wigs. The club hopes to foster its long-term ambition of following Kidderminster into the Conference by building a 400-seat stand in the summer. financial assistance per-





# \*Footballers are just rebels without a clue

his big hotel. Americans everywhere. The tangy smell of coffee drifting through huge rooms. I am with a pop-star-to-be. His record company has invested £250,000 in recording his debut album and a proper writer - their phrase - has been commissioned to write the public relations

He is quite a sight. The finger nails are painted black, his head is shaved, he wears a sweater underneath his suit. The Americans stare. The taperecorder is switched on and so is he. He is a fire-hose of quotes, all of them deliciously scandalous. Diplomacy? Stuff it! He would like to see the Pope shot, dope sold at corner shops and, if you ask him about capitalism, he will supply a lengthy, colourful treatise

outlining its imminent demise.

Next into the interview chair is a footballer, any footballer, polite and loose-limbed in a tracksuit. He winks at the waitress and orders a mineral water. His hair is slightly wet. Footballers are often slightly wet.

"What do you think about racism in football?" He shakes his head. Out of bounds that one. "Is money ruining the game?" Sorry mate, not for me to comment. "What do you think about the standard of refereeing?" He can answer this one. "Well, they have a hard job to do ..."
Diplomacy? Lots of it and more.

IN BRIEF

Lancashire

experiment

with lights

lights in two years' time.

match against Yorkshire at

Old Trafford on July 21.

starting at 3pm and finishing

around 11pm, to gauge how

northern cricket spectators re-

act to day-night matches. Trucks with banks of lights will be positioned outside the perimeter of Old Trafford and

illuminate the playing area.

Athletics: Officials from three

organisations are to meet to

investigate the case of a banned sprinter who was picked for the world indoor

championships last month

Doug Turner, from Wales.

was selected for the British

squad to compete in Paris despite being under a three

month ban imposed by the

Scottish Games Association

(SGA) in January for testing

positive for an illegal stimu-

lant. The British Athletics

Federation (BAF), which se-

lected the squad, had not been

atold of the ban and has

requested more information

from the SGA, as has the

world governing body, the

International Amateur Athlet-

Boxing: Emmett Linton bat-

tered the former undisputed

welterweight champion, Don-

ald Curry, 35, into retirement

in Las Vegas, bearing him by

technical knockout in the sev-

Hockey: Dr Bill vans Agnew,

the former England and Great

Britain team manager and

Scotland international (1947-

53), has died at 71 after a long

ics Federation.

enth round.

are told, are one and the same, but all they really share are the same hairdressers, financial advisers and fashion designers. They both demand completely different personalities. Pop celebrates the maverick, while football is a patron of the prosaic. A pop star will tell you the full story; the struggle, the anger, the excess, the muse behind every line of every song. A footballer will tell you nothing in a thousand different ways. He has his position in the team to fret over ... and his sponsorship deal ... and his agent has told him to stay on board -

at all times.

David Beckham, the Manchester United midfield player, recently did a round of interviews as part of a sportswear endorsement. A hotel bar was duly hired and journalists brought before him at regular inter-vals. Hot Press, Ireland's literate music magazine, was among the publications on this public relations

Beckham, with all the guile of a master politician, evaded every slightly interesting question and the resulting piece was an indicament of the modern footballer. They really do have nothing to say, nothing to offer. Their personality is in their socks or deposited with their agent where their commercial interests can be protected. All that is left is a haircut,

MARK HODKINSON



some trendy clothes and a huge bank balance.

Football folk are so adept at concealing their real opinions and emotions that no one is sure any more what anyone is saying. The code, quite simply, is too effective. The periphery is lost and so is the foreground. When Alex Ferguson. the Manchester United manager. made a few mild criticisms of Arsène Wenger last weekend, it was relayed as if he had ambushed the Arsenal manager and set about him with a Before they were homogenised,

football managers would tell it as it

was. When, back in the Seventies, Bill McGarry was asked by a radio reporter whether he felt his job as Newcastle United's manager was in jeopardy, he responded with a with-ering flow of four-letter invective. Now, compared with Ferguson's tight-lipped whinging, that was an

The media, of course, covets personality and, in the absence of the real thing, it has kindly supplied lootballers with caricatures. So Eric Cantona, because he paints and furrows his brow rather a lot, is an intellectual. But would an intellectual have a Red Indian chief tattooed on his chest and spout inane poetry? Robbie Fowler is now a workingclass freedom fighter, but would he have the time or desire to attend a Workers' Revolutionary Party meeting on a wet Wednesday in Bootle?

There are scores of other cartoons in football boots, among them Alan Shearer, family man; Ian Wright, curmudgeon; Paul Gascoigne, mad

and dangerous; Vinnie Jones, baddle. Footballers like to hang out with pop stars. They think it increases their credibility status. It does not. There is no symmetry. Footballers are sober and uptight, pop stars are drunk and fall over. When players reveal their musical tastes, they inadvertently reinforce their blandness. Their perennial favourites are \(\Bar{\textsuper}\) Lynne Truss is away

Stewart. Why do they never mention someone odd and idiosyncratic, such as, say, Bogshed, Napalm Death or God is My Co-Pilot?

Pat Nevin, the Tranmere Rovers winger, is one of the few footballers who allegedly knows his music. He has been banging on about the Cocteau Twins for the past decade, which is enough to put anyone off. Nevin is hardly the chap to lead the footballing masses through the atonal wilderness. Invariably dressed in black, with body language apologetic enough to alert psychologists, he is, in pop star terms, more your drummer with Bogshed than your lead

A swipe at footballers invariably brings forth a wealth of apologists imploring that we judge them solely by their sporting prowess. This would be a fair point if footballers limited their separated activities to limited their commercial activities to the pitch, but they do not. If the price is right, they will converse with toffees made to look like little people (Ruud Gullit) or wrestle with honey monsters (Kevin Keegan), to name but two. More importantly, footballers, since they are young and healthy, should be bursting with opinions. life, energy and attitude. Yeah.

### **SWIMMING:** AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENT SPRINGS SURPRISE IN EUROPEAN TRIALS

# Parry returns home in triumph

By Craig Lord

STEPHEN PARRY, 20, who is LANCASHIRE county cricket scarcely known outside his club are experimenting with a native Liverpool, yesterday new floodlighting system that booked his place in the British they hope will increase their team for the European chamchances of staging one of the pionships in Seville with an emphatic victory over the Olympic finalist, James Hickman, in the 100 metres World Cup matches under The Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy butterfly at Ponds Forge, holders plan a one-off 50-overs Sheffield.

Although Parry's winning time of 54.03sec was .15sec slower than he achieved in qualifying, it was good enough to beat Hickman, whose aim is to pick off the other Atlanta finalists one by one as he builds up to Sydney 2000. Hickman, from Stockport, who set a European short-course record over 100 metres this winter, only to see it broken by a Russian within days, had expected he might have to modify his game plan to take account of any newcomers from overseas. That he was sent back to the drawing board by another Englishman was a little painful.

it atways comers lose," Hickman, who holds the British record at 53.23sec, said. "When I saw the heat time, it really put a rocket up me. I'm not going to cry here, but I will if it happens next week."

That is when he will shave down for the world shortcourse championships in Sweden. Although he was not at his best yesterday, his time of 54.46sec was good enough for automatic selection for Seville in August. The 100 metres butterfly was the only race on the first of four days of trials to produce two qualifiers.

Parry was foud in his praise of Hickman: "James has led the way. He's done us all a favour by working hard and swimming as fast as he has. h's raised the standard."

Parry's own standards have been lifted by a couple of seasons at Florida State University, for whom he won the National Collegiate Athletic



Parry leaves Hickman, an Olympic finalist, in his wake at the finish of the 100 metres butterfly at Sheffield

Association (NCAA) 200 yards butterfly title last week. "I was ninth in the 100, not even good enough to make the final." he

An example of Parry's growing maturity came from his Liverpool coach, Colin Stripe, who noted that his charge opted to miss a party on his arrival from the United States last weekend in favour of an early night. "A year ago, the party would have won," Stripe said.

non 1 Crystal Palace 1. League Cup: Wmbledon 2 Ordord United 1 PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn Rovers 1 Oktham Athletic 0, Nottingham Forest 0 Leads United 1. First division: Port Vale 1 Sunderland 0 Second division: Bradford Chy 0 York. Chy 3; Strevesbury 1 Gransby Town 1: Slockport County 0 Bernsley 3; Wheatarn 1 Carliste United 2. Third division: Chesterfield 0 Walsall 1; Doncaster Rovers 2 Chester Chy 4; Rochdele 0 Lincoln City 0, Wigan Athletic 1 Derrington 1.

1 Darington 1.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEA-GUE; Premier division; Mirries Black-

GUE: Premier division; Mirries Black-stone 1 Spaiding 0. UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First

division: Eastbourne Town 1 Seridean United 3.
EMDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Mex NA 2 Devid Loyd 1
BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Lea Town 2 Brieriey Hill Town 2
NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallem 1 Belper Town 2.
HELLENG LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallem 1 Belper Town 2.
HELLENG LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth Town 1 Abropton United 1; Wantage Town 2 Kintbury Hangers 0
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Crook Town 0
Bedlington Temiers 2
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christichurch 6 Portsmouth RN 1,
NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE: First division: Christiant Christians (Christiant Christians)
Regional Temiers 2
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christiant Christians (Christiant Christians Christiant Christians Christiant Christians Christi

"Ah, yeah, but I paid him a country - and I've worked tenner for saying that," Parry hard." said Parry, putting his success If Parry's progress augurs

down to spinach, force-fed to well for Britain in Seville, then the 200 metres freestyle final him by his mother since his offered plenty of reasons for return after "she had smacked believing that the national me round the head for calling 4 x 200 metres relay team has America home". every chance of bringing In a rare serious moment. Parry added: "It's taken me a home the gold medal.

while to get to grips with the Paul Palmer's victory. in lmin 49,85sec, confirmed that fact that there's no substitute for hard work. The only the new 50 metres pool in Bath reason I went to America was is working wonders for the to do well for myself and my winner of the silver medal in

the 400 metres at Atlanta. He was followed home by James Salter, Andrew Clayton and Gavin Meadows.

Others to make the team were Jaime King, Palmer's new team-mate at Bath, Susan Rolph, Richard Maden and Samantha Nesbitt, 15, who, with her father, Chris. the Portsmouth coach, looking on anxiously, edged ahead at the end of the 400

AMELIA ISLAND, Florids: Women's tour

AMELIA ISLAND, Rorids: Women's tour-nament's second round. J Movotra (C2) bi B Schett (Austria) 4-6, 6-4, 6-0. M Picroe (Ft) tr H Nagyora (Slovaka) 7-5, 6-7, A Cestric (SA) bt A Mesuresmo (Fr) 6-4, 1-6, 6-1: B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt S Klemova (C2) 7-5, 6-3, A Fusa (Fr) bt E Lishoviseva (Rusa) 1-6, 7-8, 6-4; R Dragome (Rom) bt A Grossman (US) 6-2, 6-3

metres medley to secure her place. Edmonton 3 Detroit 3 (OT); Vancouve Phoenix 4; Anahelm 4 Los Angeles 1

### Vale dance to echoes of glorious past

Gerald Davies on the restoration of

a once-great team from the valleys

place you might imm-ediately think of as, shall I say in the modern jargon, sexy. Not in the way that you would think of Wasps, say, or Bath or Newcastle, or indeed any of the high-profile English clubs whose players seem to attract the attention of the

glossy magazines.

Bankrolled gents with City connections have muscled their way into the rugby boardroom, each side revelling in reflected glory: money on one side, status and fame on the other. Rugby is rogu-

ish and smart. But if Enid Blyton's Noddy rubs shoulders with the Saracens, courtesy of the character's connections with Nigel Wray, the Saracens owner. Ebbw Vale can do better. They have associations with Oasis, which is, I would say, pretty modish.

The rock group's manager, Marcus Russell, is a supporter. He is from Ebbw Vale and an avid follower of the rugby team. You cannot get any trendier. Unless, of course, the club had Liam Gallagher himself as its president.

But then Ebbw Vale might not be too sure about that. They already have Russell's brother, Paul, from Andersen Consulting, in that position. He, along with the chairman, Malcolm Shepherd, who runs Universal Chemicals as a successful local business, and Colin Brennan, the

have forged an influential and far-sighted triumvirate. They have succeeded with solid virtues in resurrecting a dub that, over the past few years, seemed

vice-chairman.

destined to perish and to be part of a history Wales and the British Isles, that was long gone.

Yet Ebbw Vale's rugby fortunes have turned; two years ago, they emerged This season, their objectives were to hold a position in the top eight of the Welsh League first division and to maintain a good run in the Swalec Cup. Both have been achieved.

They are seventh in the league and tomorrow they play Swansea in the semifinals of the cup, a stage they last reached two decades ago. Under Kingsley Jones, who is in his second term as captain, the club has succeeded in making its ground at Eugene Cross Park a fortress.

All the fancied clubs have been there and come away grieving at their failure. Throughout their history, Ebbw Vale have exposed the soft underbelly of the fashionable clubs. Eugene Cross Park was the graveyard of other team's reputations.

This has not changed. The present team has not lost there since November 1995. "Last year." Jones, who came on to win his fifth cap on the flank for Wales against England, said, "teams came to us thinking, since we had only come up from the second division, that we were a team they would score enough tries against to give them maximum bonus points. It came as a shock to them that they left having lost."

Social science or history departments are fond of theories that see sport as a

bbw Vale is not a reflection of the society within which it flourishes or declines; to see the success or failure of one reflected in the other. This is a valid view. But not always.

There have been those, for instance, who have connected the decline of Welsh rugby and its renowned forward play to the decline throughout the industrial valleys. Yet this hardly explains why it was that, in the rich seam of Welsh rugby history in the Seventies, the pack was made up of members who, although sons of colliers and steelmen, had once been mooching students at colleges of further education of one sort or

There need not be too long a senior common room discussion on what happened in Ebbw Vale rugby club, however. This ideally fits the pattern, indisputably proves the theory. The town was built on heavy industry, first on coal, then steel. Its fortunes from the very beginning waxed and waned with economic expansion and recession. Ebbw Vale people have always known what it is to take the rough with the smooth.

The past 20 years have been on the rough side. The closure of the vast acres of the steel industry in the Seventies saw the decline of the rugby club. Any vision of the future might encompass a historical curiosity; visitors in search of the old Monmouthshire's

The club

succeeded

in making

its ground

heritage trail. Tales of the great exploits of their favourite sons might be told in the hollow of Eugene Cross Park. where Denzil Williams, David

a fortress' Nash and Arthur Lewis, all of

The spirit that once united the community may no longer be quite the same but around to form the basis on which the present rugby team has sought success.

"Our strength," Jones said, "is that we are all local men. We are as near as you can get to being a close village side. We are all valley boys. Most of us played in the North Monmouthshire youth team back in 1991. What we may lack in finesse at the moment we make up for in total commitment.

"Ebbw Vale came into the first division at the right time. We had not made many financial commitments to our players in the second division in the way that others already in the first division had drawn large contracts in fear of what professionalism might bring. Spending vast sums of money is no guarantee of success. Our management team have managed the books wisely so there are no debts. We have a sound base to improve."

With Wales's first division to be reduced to eight clubs next season, it is heartening to see that the old Monmouthshire of distinguished past reputation, which had been blighted of late, will be represented by two clubs. Newport from the coast. Ebbw Vale looking set to reenergise the valleys. Welsh rugby as a whole would be the clear benificiary.

### FOR THE RECORD

### BASEBALL

MERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 10 Minnesota Toronio 5 Chicago Winte Sox II; Caldand Boston 3 110 mrst: Seattle 11 Clevelond Battinore 4 Kansas Chy 2 (11 mrs); New Ik Yankee 12 Anahem 5 Postponed: Iwankee v Texas NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 3 Philadelphia 0, Colorado 13 Cincinnetti 4; Atlania 3 Houseon 3 (12 inns); Los Angeles 3 New York Mets 2 (14 inns); Patisburgh 4 San Diago 2.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Cher-lotte 136 Bosson 111: Chicago 86 Indiana 80; Atlanta 116 Philadelphia 101. Utah 101 Los Angeles Lakers 89. Los Angeles Lakers 89. LARISSA, Greece: Women's EuroLeague: Third place play-off: Auzomberok (Slova-kia) 74 Como (II) 58 Final; Boulges (Fr) 71 Wuppertal (Ger) 52

in part

BASKETBALL

MELTON MOWBRAY: All England men's indoor championships: Pains: First round: Norm Waisham (8 Taylor and D Ward) of Galvers (C Wingth and S Jeepes) 24-15; Victory (1 Fasier and P Hobday) by Warshingths (M and R Newman) 24-18; Victory (1 Fasier and P Hobday) by Warshingths (M and R Newman) 24-18; Certmoggas (D and I Drew) by Atherley (6 Burday and P Ward) 19-12; Exonis (S Stevens and I Bone) by Grantman (M Puling and D Auckland) 22-8. British Cellophane and R Butsian of Northampton (R Faulkner and D Massers) 18-7; Hardy Cross (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringel and G Gaoca) bi Falson (A Spuringes and J Morgan) 20-18; Perdiswell (M Albars and G Shenhuel) 23-12; Bashripool (A Spuringer and G Shenhuel) 23-12; Bashripool Barrough (S Arey and N Burrows) bi Mid Suffolk, (I and G Couling) 30-18; Tyredele (K Hooker and K Handerson) bi Swindon Westlecot (G Hamerilli and S Warren) 22-17. North Walstam (B Taylor and D Ward) bit Victory 26-14, Exonia (C North Walstam (B Taylor and D Ward) bit Victory 26-14, Exonia (B Awes and M Yelland) bit Barwell (A R Awes and M Yelland) bit Barwell (A R Awes and M Yelland) bit Barwell (A R Awes and M Yelland) bit Tyredele (20-19; Exonia bit North Walstam) 23-13. Handy Cross bit Darlington 24-16.

CRICKET

NEW DELHI: Renij Trophy: Final: Bombay 630 (A Mazumdar 144, JV Paranpe 111, V GKamok 89, SV Mangeker 76, W.Jartar 58); Delra 559 (A Dare 178, A Sharmá 176, N M

CYCLING TOUR OF BASQUE COUNTRY: Third stage (Viene to Vitoria, 197km): 1, S Zenful (ii) 5hr 7min 56sec; 2, S Sunderland (Aus); 3, S Heald (Fig: 4, L Jalebert (Fig: 5, C Chiappucci (ii) all same time Leading overall positions: 1, Heald 14hr 29min 7sec; 2, Jalebert; 3, F Casagrande (ii); 4, Chiappucci; 5, J L Amela (Sp) all same time. torna. LA FLÈCHE, France: Santhe nace: First stags (bop. 134.4km): 1, J Hunt (GB) 3hr 3min Obsec; 2, M Tomi (B); 3, F Meloni (II); 4, S Giacomalii (II); 5, S Ivanov (Russ) all

4, S Giacomali (III; 5, 5 Namo (nuss) as same time: GHENT-WEVELGEM RACE (208km): 1, P Gaumoni (F); Air 45min Osec; 2, A Totma (Ukr); 3, J Caplot (Bel); 4, S Ouschekov (Ulr); 5, A Ferngato (II); 6, H Vogels (Aus) all same time

### FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg:
Ajax 1 Juventus 2: Borussia Dormund 1
Manchester United 0
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Covertry
City 3: Chelsee 1: Derby County 1
Southampton 1, Everton 1: Leicester Cup 1:
Swifted Wednesday 2 Totenthern Hotspur
1: West Ham United 0 Mediesbrough 0;
Windledon 0 Aslon Ville 2:
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division:
Chariton Athleir 2: Huddenfield Town 1;
Manchester City 1: Bolton Wanderers 2:
West Bromwide Ablon 1: Crystal Petance 0.
CISS LEAGUE: Premier division: Henow
Borough 1: Bishop's Stortlord 1: Second
division: Metropolish Police 1: Bechard
Town 1: Third division: Recived Heath 3
Harton Town 1: Laves 4 kingsbury Town 1
DRI MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Newport AFC 2 Atherstone 0; Simploume
1 Baidock Tn 0: Middland division: Corby
Town 3 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town
Town 3 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town
Town 3 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town
Town 1 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town
Town 1 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town
Town 1 Strepshed Dynamo 1, Rauds Town United 2 Southern division: Bashley 0 Havent Town 3 UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 3 Hyde United 0, Bosion United 0 Leek Town 2: Knowsiey 1 Runcom

1.
PRIESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAR OUE: Cove Rangers 4 Deveronvels 1; Eign Cry 2 Bucke Thissie 1. Forres Mechanics 1 Lossemouth 4; Keith 2 Freserburgh 0; Nahr County 0 Wick Academy 0 GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Bey 1 Weishpool 0, Enbw Vale 4 Briton Ferry 0 Ferry 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournerrouth 0 Swenses Cay 0: Brighton and Houe Albion 5 Caudit Cay 0: Mitwall 0 Tottenham Hossput 1; Southamp-

FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated Nationwide League Colchester v Swansee (7.45) ... Mansfield v Carlisle (7.45) ....

ICIS LEAGUE: Pramier division: Enleid v NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Pirst UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First FA) HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Si Painto: s Athletic v Bray (7.45). (7.45).
BASS IRISH CUP; Semi-final; Glanavon v
Omagh (at The Oval, Ballast).

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chempionship play-offis; First leg: Newcastle v London (7:30).

MINERVA SOUTH MEDIANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 2 Bucking-ham Ath 0; Toddington Rovers 2 London Colney 0. OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division Old Aloysians 1 Old Ignations 0. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premie

Town 2 FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Luton Town 1 Leeds United 2. GERMAN LEAGUE: SI Pauli 2 VII. Bochum 1
WORLD CUP. Asian zone: Group three:
Jordan 0 United Arab Entwates 0 (in
Manema) African zone: Group three:
Zare 2 Zanbia 2 (in Hairer).
COPA LIBERTADORIES: Group one: Guareni (Par) 3 Bolver (Bo) 1. Group two:
Racing (Arab 2 Ernelies (Ecu) 1. Group two:
Departino Cair (Co) 0 Neponal (Unu) 1
ERAZI (AU L. EAU)E. See Best departed. Departed Carl (Corl) of Mesonal (Drul) 1
BRAZELAN (LEASURE: São Peulo champ-ionahip: AmanoaSSI Pro Preto 2 Mogi Mirm 1; Botslogo/Riberso Preto 1 Portuguesa Samista 2, Guarani 2 Internacional 2, Juventus 2 Covinthans 2; Pelmairas 2 Ro Branco 1; São Jose 0 União São Jose 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFB.): Flonds 4 New Jersey 2; Montreal 3 New York Islanders 1, Ottews 5 Hertlord 4; St Louis 1 Chicago 0, Dalles 3 Tororto 2; San Jose 4 Colorado 1:

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

#### RUGBY LEAGUE Kick-off 7 30 unless stated Stones Super League

Leeds v St Helens Salford v Sheffield . Wigan v Bradford . First division Dewsbury v Widnes (7.45) Second division Lancashire Lynx v York . ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Hull Kings: ton Rovers v Halitax.

OTHER SPORT BOWLS: Men's British championships (a) Mellon Mowbray) Metion Mouthray: Star Cup: Belle Vue v Swindon (7:30), Poterborough v Poolo (7:30), British under-21 chumptonships: Semi-finat, Arena Esser. (8:0) Premier League Knockout Cap: Edinburgh v Hull (7:30); Oxford v Exeter (7:45) SWIMMING: European Championship It

#### RUGBY LEAGUE SECONO DIVISION: Leigh Centurions 41 Bramley 10

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens 34

RUGBY UNION COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSI-First division: Haraquins 27 Saracans Fourth division south: Waston-super M LEAGUE: Second division

WELSH LEAGUE: Secon Abentillery 10 Cross Keys 12 SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions at 13:55GMT yesterdey). 1, Group 4 37days. 23ty Cermin Offsec (amused 01:35:05GMT Thursday); 2, 2, Concert 37:23:25:26, 3, Tostaba Wave Wentor 38:03; 11:30; 4, Commercial Union 38:18:48:23, 5, Motorois 39:03:25:27; 6, Save The Children 39:07:23:39; 7, 3:Com 15 miles from Cape Town, 8, Global Tearment 17; 9, Ocsan Rover 80; 10, Time 5 Tide 196; 11, Nuclear Electric 240; 12, Courtaulds International 314; 13, Heath Insured 8:355, 14, Pause To Remember 372.

**SPEEDWAY** PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Hull 81 Glasgow

29, Long Eaton 51 Reading 39. SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Poole 52 Peter-borough 38; King's Lynn 46 Eastbourne 44. TENNIS

ESTORIL: Men's tournament: First round: M Flappin (Uru) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1; F Cabato (Arg) bt W Fenetra (Sq) 6-3, 6-6, 6-4 Second round: C Moya (Sp) bt R Fromberg (Aue) 6-2, 6-3; F Martilla (Sp) bt H Arazi (Mor) 8-2, 6-3; F Ctavet (Sp) bt C Nuerter (B) 1-6, 6-1, 7-6; A Bertesategui (Sp) bt C Ruad (Nor) 8-1, 6-4 (Sp.) bit C. Rusof (Nort) 8-1, 6-4
MADRAS: Men's tournement: Piret round:
M Norman (Swe) bit E. Ran (lar) 8-2, 6-1, J.
Stark (US) bit S. Narla (India) 6-0, 6-3; R.
Schuttler (Ger) bit T. Engyest (Swe) 8-6 ret.
Second round: A. Redulessu (Ger) bit F.
Weber (Hoti) 6-4, 7-5; M Washington (US) bit
O Opprodov (Libi) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1; Stark bit
Naria 6-0, 6-3; Norman bit E. Ran (Isr) 6-2, 1-5, Schuttler bit G. Elis (Arg) 6-4, 7-5; M.
Tätstrom (Swe) bit O Delailled (Fri 6-1, 3-6, 6D; A. Pairel (Rom) bit P krajicale (Hotil) 7-5, 6-3.



Eddie Izzard entertains (C4, 10.30pm)

story. Perhaps the writer, Russell T. Davies, feels the need for a bit of sado-masochism to pep up his narrative. This seems unlikely, as there is so much going on in other parts of the hotel. The nice Bamermans (Michael Siberry and Julia St John) are still trained to been the Grand out of the churches

are still trying to keep the Grand out of the clutches of his nasty brother (Mark McGann) and there is a

touching episode involving a young pregnant-woman. Single mothers are demonised even today but Davies is making the point that in the 1920s they faced being deprived of the child and locked

Although this show was recorded three years ago, and has been issued on video, it still offers a rare chance to catch what Izzard enjoys doing most—performing to a live audience with no breaks or time limit. And since he makes almost no use of

topical references, the material has not dated.

Izzard's act, delivered on a bare stage with no props, is an apparently rambling and unconnected serious of observations and surreal spins. You think how much harder it must be to keep this up

for an hour than to play from a conventional script.

You also wonder how much one performance differs from another. But if Izzard's brand of humour appeals, and to a younger audience it does, it is enough to sit back and admire the verve,

You'd have thought that by now every filmgoer

and film-maker would have got the message about screens: bigger and deeper doesn't automatically

mean better. Letter-box screens, square screens, rectangular screens, screens the height of an eight-storey building—all have been tested and, mainly, found wanting. The same goes for 3-D which promised us a lion in our lap provided we were prepared to squint at the screen through two-

colour cardboard spectacles. The aim was virtual

reality. What the experimenters forgot was that we leave reality behind us the moment we buy our

cinema ticket. Christopher Cook's history of

cinema art and technology has certainly not lost its

Peter Davalle

away in an asylum.

Channel 4, 10.30pm

Eddie Izzard — Unrepeatable

invention and sheer cheek.

Lumière's Children

Radio 4, 8\_50pm

### GOLF: YOUNG BRITON DIGS IN DETERMINED TO MAKE IMPRESSION ON THE MASTERS

# Westwood survives fear of the unknown

FROM ROB HUGHES IN AUGUSTA

FIRST-footing on the slick and capricious greens of Augusta was never any recipe for a honeymoon. Lee Westwood, the young professional from Worksop, was to have married last week, but put off the wedding to tackle the United States' most demanding golf course here in the company of Nick Faldo, Greg Norman, Arnold Palmer and the rest of the Masters. Yesterday, he held his nerve, held his game together and finished his first round on a five-over-par 77.

"I wasn't practising to shoot 77 on my honeymoon," he joked. "Some people say you can come off this course with a headache, in my case it was more from the glare of the sand. It is a bit overwhelming when you stand on the first tee and I admit I started badly. But really I enjoyed the experience, I'll be out at practice in another hour, because I am determined to make the cut."

When he stood on the 1st tee. shortly after 9am, there was a chill in the Augusta air, a thin crowd and not many eyes on the young Briton who, second only to the phenomenon Tiger Woods, is the rookie of this tournament. His playing partner. Dan Forsman, 14 years his senior and a relative veteran of 16 rounds over this unique course, drew the American applause, the handshakes, while Westwood -"he's from England" — had literally to step around those

who did not recognise him. He has a boyish, youthful face, but the shoulders and heavy torso of a rugby league player. And right from that 1st tee, his strength began to make the spectators gasp at

the distance of his driver. However, Augusta soon draws its own respect; you miss by inches and you get punished by yards. Westwood's first shot at Augusta National flew 257 yards from the tee, deviated a slight dogplum into the bunker on Tea Olive fairway. He looked undeterred and the sand here is so fine that extricating oneself from the traps, at least to these professionals, is no real im-

. Answers from page 42

Nevertheless, Westwood was overawed, his nerves obvious in the way he rushed the 1st and 2nd holes. The strength was there, the accuracy less so and on greens so fast that they resembled green marbles. he double-bogeyed the 1st, bogeyed the 2nd.

For those close to him, his mother Trish and father John, this was a dream heading towards a nightmare. It was little consolation that Forsman, with all his experience, was to three-putt six of the first seven holes.

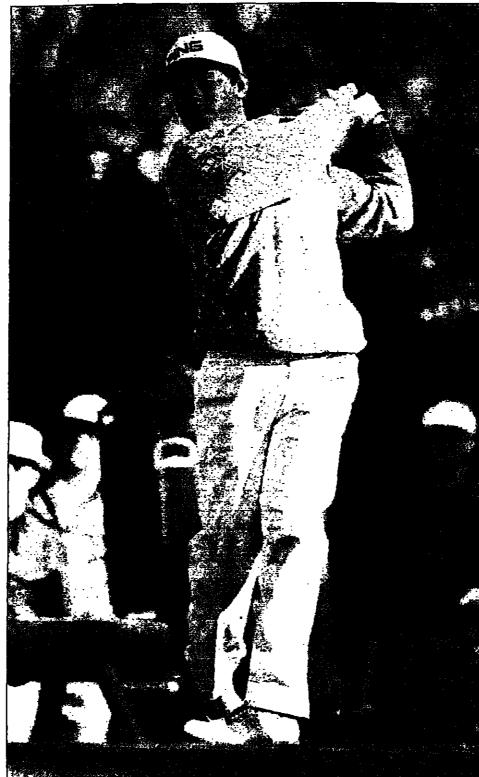
Back in England, unable to abandon a new business where she works as a beauty therapist, Westwood's fiancée, Laurae Coltart, could not have known the circumstances. But she, born into a golfing family of her own, certainly appreciates that her man, a winner of tournaments in Europe, Japan and Malaysia, can stand the heat. Determination, solemn and solid, began to ebb through the nervousness from the 3rd hole, a 360-yard parfour. Westwood saved that par with a nerveless six-foot putt.

He was taking his Masters more slowly now, indeed beginning to incur suggestions from the green blazers to hurry up. From his square stance he began to demonstrate the sheer strength of his game. "It's different with a pencil in your hand and a scorecard in your back pocket," he observed, referring to the fact that his work down the fairways was less accurate

than on two practice days. Down the 7th fairway, for the first time, the two golfers came together and conversed. "Beauty," Forsman said as Westwood stole a shot back with a birdie at the 535-yard 8th, known as the Elephant's Graveyard. At the 10th, too. Westwood birdied the hole.

However, the Masters is never mastered. Westwood produced a wayward shot at a lost shot to par. On the 15th, he similarly had to clear the spectators and, with good grace, he apologised: "I am

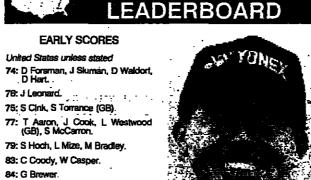
nervous enough as it is." Then, with curious Americans at his elbow, he gave his



Westwood seeks to conquer first-round nerves on the 2nd tee at Augusta yesterday

second shot to the 15th an absolutely enormous degree of force and brought the ball safely down to the green. The audience, a gallery of maybe 150, now could appreciate that the spirit they call Churchill-

ian survives. He will be 24 on April 24, he intends by then to have played at least three rounds at Augus-. meaning that the likelihood that he must today improve against the course by capability. "It did swell a little 83: C Coody, W Casper. bit, but it never fooled me," he concluded of the testing Augusta wind. Then, Faldo-like, he gave himself barely an hour before joining the Masters in practice.



**MASTERS** 

Hoch: round of 79

### **RUGBY LEAGUE**

85: D Ford.

82: \*.I Miller

### Leeds pin hopes on Harris

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

(a) A running or trailing ornament or design in imitation of the branches, leaves, or tendrils of the vine, employed in architecture or decorative work. The diminutive of the Romance words for vine. Readopted in the 18th century as vignette. Hall, Chronicles of Henry VIII, 1548: "Kyrtels of Crymosyne and purpul satyn, embroudered with a vynet of Pomegranettes of golde." IESTYN HARRIS created an immediate impact when he came off the bench for Leeds

(b) To bind (something) round with cord, thread etc. To unite or join (thread, yarn etc). To secure or fasten by tying. Of obscure origin. Walter Scott, Guy Mannering, 1815: "A hank fof yarn, but not a haill ane - the full years o' three score and ten, but thrice broken, and thrice to oop [wup]." VETTURINO

WORD WATCHING

(b) In Italy: one who let out carriages or horses on hire: also a driver of a vettura or four-wheeled carriage. Ultimately from the "Asserting my right of way notwithstanding the fierce opposition of many of the local vetturini, I toiled up the steep ascent for the hotel."

(b) A Macedonian heavy cavalry spear. From the Greek for the polished shaft of a spear, from xuein to scrape or polish. Grote, Greece, 1856: "The regiments of cavalry called Sarissophori or Lancers carrying a long lance, and distinguished from the heavier cavalry who carried the xyston or short pike."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1 ... Qd4+! 2 Qxd4 Nh3 checkmate

Eddie Izzard:

Tonight 10.30

against an unchanged St Helens, who he was going to join until a deal with Warrington

turned sour and Leeds stepped in with a £350,000 offer. Because he is starting Harris at stand-off half. Dean Bell. the Leeds coach, has preferred Ryan Sheridan to Graham Holroyd at scrum half in an effort to avoid a third successive Stones Super League defeat. "Like all good professionals, lestyn has tak-

Rhinos in a lost cause against

Wigan a week ago. Leeds

hope he makes a similar

impression when he makes

his full debut at home tonight

en to things pretty easily," Bell said. "I was happy with the way he went with Ryan last The Rugby Football League

Nigel Wright, another young, outstanding stand-off half, is ready to begin his comeback for Wigan, after a 20-month lay-off in which he has undergone four ankle operations and managed only two appearances on the bench. He is in the squad for the visit tonight by Bradford Bulls and is hoping that a nightmare spell is finally behind him.

Bradford are angry that an appeal against a four-match ban imposed on Brian McDermost for striking three Leeds opponents in the Challenge Cup semi-final failed, despite Eagles.

the forward's previously clean disciplinary record.

is looking at establishing a separate disciplinary panel for brawl charges to ensure consistency over sentencing. However, inconsistencies over the policing and punishment of high tackles is causing most concern. In the recent case of Paul Evans, of Paris Saint-Germain, who looked to be the victim of a mistaken refereeing decision, the disciplinary committee last night declared his sending off sufficient.

As well as St Helens and Bradford tonight, Salford are defending a 100 per cent record at home to Sheffield

#### TELEVISION CHOICE

### A not so untamed jungle

The Lost Gardens of Heligan Channel 4, 8.00pm

The penultimate instalment of the great Cornish garden restoration locuses on a 25-acre area known as the Jungle. A jungle implies something that has grown haphazardly but this one was created in the 1880s and stocked with exotic species brought back from foreign lands by Victorian plant-hunters. In contrast to the formality elsewhere, the Jungle offered a steep-sided valley with four ponds cascading one down to the other and the Cornish climate made it ideal for sub-tropical plants. But like the rest of Heligan, the Jungle was neglected for 70 years. The task of clearing thousands of unwanted trees, not to mention ivy and Japanese knorwood, is at the heart of tonight's film which maintains the standard of the series for handsome photography and lucid, enthusiastic explanation.

#### Gardeners' World BBC2, 8\_30pm

When Geoff Hamilton died suddenly last year, many gardeners must have felt that their world had fallen in. Fortunately for the programme a more than capable deputy was at hand. Alan Titchmarsh was to have taken over in any case, allowing Hamilton to do more of his special series, anowing Frankoth to to more of his special series, but not in such sad circumstances. In a very different style, jocular rather than avuncular, Titchmarsh has proved the ideal anchorman. His dispatches from his Hampshire garden combine entertainment and expertise in just the right doses and he is a good foil for the less extrovert members of the team. Tonight's items have Titchmarsh training wisteria, Gay Search witnessing the transformation of a concrete backyard in east London and Roy Lancaster concluding his reports on the glorious flora of South Africa.

#### The Grand

Radio 4, 9.30pm

What until now had seemed like innocuous family viewing suddenly turns raunchy with Susan Hampshire's ageing prostitute thrashing one of her customers with a whip. Her character is a puzzle, for apart from staying at the eponymous hotel, she seems to have no connection with the

Kaleidoscope Future: The Rake's Progress

Of all the expert verdicts on Hogarth's eight-part tableaux delivered during Tim Marlow's Kaleidoscope feature tonight, the one I like best uses few words to convey a great deal. George Melly, dryly with as always, says The Rake's Progress is like a tragedy presented with great relish by a reporter from The Sun — but with genius. The other capsule judgments on the paintings and complementary engravings are passed by a trio of Hogarth devotees as they go from one "act" to the next at Sir John Soane's Museum in London. Perceptively, one of them says that Hogarth's stroke of genius was to make his doomed rake not just a target for satire but a conduit for satire itself.

#### RADIO 1

7,00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Torg — Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle with Demen Day 12.00 Radio 1 Rep Show with Tim Westwood 3.00em Charlie Jordan

### RADIO 2

6.00mm Sarah Kennedy 8.05 Waka Up to Wogen 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debble Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome, Golders Green, With the BBC Concert Orchestre under lain Sutherland 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12,05mm Patrick Lunt

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5,00am Moming Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2,00pm Ruscoe on Five from Antree' includes commentary on the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 races 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Friday Sport with John Murray. Rugby League: Super League, Wigan v Bradford: Golf: the second day of the US Masters In Augusta 10,00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours 2.00mm Up Ali Night

### TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour, 5.30aith Europe Today 7.15 World Today 7.30 Meridian Books 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.16 Turning A Tune 9.30 Tommy Vance 10.05 Business 10.15 Live From the Archive 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Discovery 12.30 Neighbours 12.45 F.O.O.C 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today Neighbours 12.45 F.O.O.C 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack X-Press 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 John Peel 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 Record News 6.45 Sport 7.30 Reports from the Silk Road 8.00 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 11.30 Merician Books 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 12.05 Outlook 12.30em Vintage Chart Show 1.30 Turning a Turne 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 The Works 3.30 Focus on Fath 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europa Today 4.45 Off the Shelf 4.30 Europe Today 4.45 Off the Shelf

4.90am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hall of Fame 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto. Mozert (Fute Concerto In G major, K313); Dvoľák (Violin Concerto in Aminor, OP 53) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7,00 Newsnight 7,30 Sonata, Boyce (Tno Sonata No 15 in D major) 8.00 Concert, Schubert (Symphony No 2 in B flat, D125); Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Hayon, St Antoni Chorale) 10.00 Jane Markham 2.00am Concerto (r)

### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark

6.00am On Air, Includes Cherubini (Overture: Anacreon); Raif (Symphony No 3 in F, In the Forest); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 7); Sibelius (Tapiola); Verdi (Aida, excerpts); Takemitsu (Water-Ways); Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135)
9.00 Morning Collection. Presented by Penny Gore. Includes Eiger (Overture: Cockaigne, In London Town); Haydn (Plano Trio in G, HXV 25); Milhaud (Symphony No 2)

Town; Haydn (Plano Trio in G, HXV 25); Milhaud (Symphony No 2)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Includes Schumann (Faschingsschwank aus Wien. Op 2); Hanne Orvad (Kornell, 1992); Smetana (Piano Trio in G minor, Op 15); Weber (Piano Sonala No 3 in D monor, Op 49, Haydn (Symphony No 52 in C minor)

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Rozsa. Introduced by Roderic Dunnett

12.00 Composer of the Week: Rozsa. Introduced by Roderic Dunnett 1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. A concert

pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. A concert given last month in St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Introduced by Chris de Souza. Vanessa Latarche, piano Includes Chopin (Impromptu in Fsharp, Op 36); Fauré (Barcarolle in A flat, Op 44; Valse-Caprice in A, Op 30); Chopin (Noctume In F, Op 15 No 1; Waltz in D flat, Op 64 No 1, Minute); Fauré (Impromptu in E flat, Op 25; Noctume in O flat, Op 63); Chopin Bercerolle in Fsharp. Op 60) sharp, Op 60) 2.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the

2.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the writer and philosopher Roger Scrutton (r) 3.00 Mithing the Archive. Len Black concludes his celebration of the music of Johannes Brahms. Includes Brahms (Nine Songs, Op 32; Nachtwandler; Abendregen); Wolf (From the Songs of Hatem and Suleika); Parry (Song Selection) (2/2)

5.00 Music Machine, with Luke Cresswell
5.15 In Turne, with Anthony Burton. Includes Tormis
(Swing Songs, Estonian Calendar Songs); Gade
(Spring Fantasy); Grieg (Holberg Suite)
7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wates, under Mark
Wigglesworth. Live from St David's Hall, Cardiff.
With Steven Isseriis, cetio. Prokofiev (Symphony
No 1, Classical); Prokofiev, compl/orch Block
(Concertino) B.10 Getting to Know Printo Lavi.
David Mandel pives a personal account of his

David Mendel gives a personal account of his friendship with the Italian author, who died ten years ago this week 8.30 Concert Part 2. Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Eroica) 9.30 The Undertaiding. The American poet Thomas Lynch concludes the reading of his diaries (5/5) 9.45 Sunshine and Shade. A selection of music for putter does by Alberiz Includes Caetilia.

guitar duos by Albeniz, Includes Ca performed by Miguel Garau and Fernando Millet 10.00 Hear and Now. Includes performances from the Hear and Now. Includes performences from a Nash Ensemble's contemporary concerts sele-Wath Flona Kimm, mezzo, and the conductors Martyn Brabbins and Lionel Friend. Includes Nicholas Maw (Roman Carticle); Anders

Nicrolas Maw (Homan Canticle); Anders Nordentof (Hymne); Julian Anderson (Poetry Nearing Stence); Selly Beamish (Between Earth and Sea); Sirnon Holf (Canciones)

11.30 Composer of the Weetc Arry Beach (r)

12.39am Everything but the Crazyfrouse. Russell Davies begins a six-part series exploring the file and work of the legendery soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet (r)

and work or the regentions supposed Sidney Bechet (r)

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod, includes 2.00 Beethoven (Six begatelles, Op 126); Scartatt (Sonatas): Bach (English Suffe No 4 in F. BW809); Beethoven (Poloraise in C, Op 89) 3.00 Strauss (Violin Sonata, Op 18) 6.00 Sequence

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Sports News and Thought for the Day 8.50 Party Election Broadcast, by the Liberal Composite

Democrats

9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Peter Sissons puts isteners' questions to the Conservative Michael Portillo. Call 0345-514614 (r) ws; Out of the Black Bag. The last in the

three-part senes looking at popular medicine.
Clare Jenkins visits a group of inner-city GPs

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Sylvia Horn

11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by
Joanna Pinnock 12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Merk Whittaker:
12.25pm Food Programme. Julie Eisner investigates the recent experiments by the big supermarket chains of delivering groceries to customers' homes 12.55 Weether.

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (; 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: Beside the Ocean of Time, by
George Mackey Brown Dramatised by Stuart
Corn. With Paul Morrow, Billy Riddoch, Michael

Mackenzie and Tom Smith (1/2) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and the guests of the day

News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Markow sees the
realistic human sculptures by Duane Hanson. Plus
an interview with Philip Dodd, the new director of
the ICA in London.

4.45 Short Story: The Rebel, by Madeleine Wickham.
Read by Patience Tomlinson (r)
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Growing Spaces. A new series of the gerdening magazine with Edi Stark. Includes a poetic approach to the deflodil from Simon Anderton and Charles Stirton reports on the progress being made at the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where he is director
7.00 Name 7.05 The Andreas

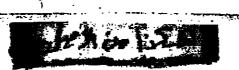
made at the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where he is director
7.00 Nettes 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serie presents his selection of extracts from the lest seven days on BBC radio and television
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Stamford. With Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat spokesman on European Union affeirs, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, Shadow Northem Ireland Secretary. Peter Ulley, Secretary of State for Social Security, and the author and dramatist Frederic Rephael
8.50 Lumière's Châdren. See Choice (f)
9.15 Letter from America, Another sice of Americana delivered by Alistair Cooks
9.30 Kateldoscope Feature. See Choice (f)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtimer. The Go-Batween, by LP. Hartley, Read by John Rowe (5/10) (f)
11.00 Week Ending. The topical comedy sketch show with Selly Grace and the team
11.25 Tea Junction, A quizzdaal look at the week's events with Patrick Harnen and guests
11.45 Twilight. In the last of the five-part series, Joanna Primock observes seabirds at dusk on the island of Skomer (f)

of Skomer (r)

12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Never Marry a
Mexican. The final part of Sandra Cisneros's
story, read by Rita Morano (3/3) (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVIE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Iam Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susam Thomson, Jame Gregory and John McNamars.



Is Merion has a prob-lem, a subtle variation on the old saw about not being the woman she was. Mrs M's unique difficulty is that she has never been the woman she was. It took a little while but now you know that, I know that, her guests know that; only her doting studio audience seems oblivious to the fact that inside the floral print and support hose of the hostess lurks the young and vigorous Caroline Aherne. No wonder she took them with her to make Mrs Merton in Las Vegas (BBC1).

The reason for going to America, presume, was fresh blood. To find a celebrity, any celebrity, who by sheer dint of under-research would walk straight into the trap that Mrs M used to set and spring so exquisitely in the early days of her career. What was needed was enough innocence to put the "in" back in "in-joke". We didn't get it.
First up was Patrick Duffy.

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A STATE OF THE STATE OF

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First because he was on the Clive James Show last Sunday and second because he is cute. Cute not just in the easy-on-the-eye, Bobby Ewing sense, but cute in the sense that he knew exactly what was going on. His publicist had done his job. Ewing was as in on the joke as every other guest in the

The fact that he was selfdeprecating, sharp and witty didn't help. Here was an American that could make jokes about Anne Diamond, an American who when asked "what was the Queen like?" replied "short". Mrs M is not at her best with guests who are she asked, the strain beginning to

As ever, her interviews contained the one carefully prepared question that was intended to be either rude or parochial. With Duffy, she opted for the former. In Dallas you were the simple gormless brother - was that acting?" Even for Duffy, this was clearly going a bit far: "Are your socks wrinkled — or aren't you wearing any?"

With her other guest, Tony Curtis, she went for parochial and lived to regret it. If the exchange about Richard and Judy had been rehearsed. Curtis had clearly forgotten his lines. She had three stabs at it, before giving up and changing tack: "You're 71 and your girlfriend is 27 — is everything working down below?" Curtis assured her it was and slipped her a couple of hotel keys: "Bring a friend." Upstaged again.

don't know if Sir David Frost has graced the Merton sofa yet, probably too busy filling his own on Sunday mornings, I expect. But when they do get together they should discover they REVIEW



Matthew Bond

CENTRAL

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1593527)

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9744275)

10.40 Central Weekend Election '97

WESTCOUNTRY

1,25 Wish You Were Here? (70719169)

2.45-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (4297898)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1593527)

6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (636409)

MERIDIAN

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9744275)

10.30 Meridian News and Weather (509169)

ANGLIA

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9744275)

2.50-3.20 Liza's Country (5919546)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1593527)

2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5919546)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1593527)

6.00-6.55 Meridian Tonight (636409)

12.10am Campus Cops (3442522)

10.45 Film: Psycho IV (16530275)

12.10am Weekly World News (1165134)

As HTV West except:

1.50 Savannah (2371985)

2.50-3.20 Our House (5919546)

12.40 Funky Bunker (7957183)

3.30 Dating the Enemy (38251)

12.55 Home and Away (9744275)

1.55 Blue Heelers (1372411)

1.40 Baywatch (6441473)

3.00 Movie Club (36541)

As HTV West except:

As HTV West except

1,55 Savannah (2389904)

10.45 Highlander (359898)

11.40 A406 (742072)

As HTV West except:

1.55 Savannah (2389904)

2.35 Cyber Cafe (3826251)

6.25-6.55 Central News (555091)

have much in common. For, as my colleague Nicholas Wapshott rightly pointed out in Monday's paper, Frost is not the man he was particularly when it comes to conducting the political interviews. But nor is he entirely a spent force in television, as 1964 And All That (Channel 4) showed. It was rather

The idea was to look for the similarities between the 1964 gen-

rather tedious, but put Frost at the helm, re-create the studio feel of That Was The Week That Was and let nobody speak for longer than 45 seconds and you have something really quite watchable.

Frost's starting point were the similarities between now and then - the young, charismatic Labour leader fighting his first election, a Tory Government recovering from scandal to close the gap in the polls, etcetera. Unfortunately, his studio panel disagreed. Tony Blair was more Gaitskell than Wilson, in the opinion of Shirley Williams, while Peter Shore pointed out that while Wilson's manifesto was avowedly socialist, Blair's ... was

Just when Frost's argument looked lost before it had started. our own Anthony Howard popped up. He reminded us that in both cases the incumbent Tory Government had been in office for an

awfully long time. Frost looked suitably grateful.

Whenever proceedings threatened to drag, we cut away from the 1960s pop-art set, either for another burst of black and white footage of the period (complete with mock newsreel commentary) or to the inevitable irony of one of Steve Punt's monologues, Nobody sang, which I thought was a shame. Had it all been live and 15 minutes shorter (preferably without the 15 minutes that showed just how untelegenic the debate about Europe is) Frost could have been seriously back in business.

Thether Mrs Merton is not the woman she was and Frost not the inquisiwas, Animal Hospital (BBC2), without doubt, is not the programme it was. It is weeks into its run now and I still haven't squeezed out a single tear. Last night, I didn't come close. Even

point and there was the prospect of some "difficult decisions" having to be made, all he got (or rather the horses got) were a graze and a sprained ligament. Back in the surgery, Rolf Harris

continued to concentrate on animals that had something potentially funny wrong with them, such as the Aylesbury duck (treated in an Aylesbury surgery, ho-ho) being injected with anabolic steroids because she had grown too heavy for her legs. "How long have you had her?" asked Rolf. Since she

was an egg, naturally. Audrey the duck may have been rescued from the dinner table, but Rambo, the six-day-old lamb, still had his work cut out. A splint had straightened his knees, as Harris put it: "a surprisingly simple treatment, which will cure potentially a big problem". Such as not being able to run away from the

#### A BEGIN 6.00am Business Breakfast (33985) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70704256) 9.05 Election Call Defence Secretary Michael

Portillo answers (9403527) 10.00 Style Challenge (46140) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (80633) 11.00 News (T) and weather (4683091)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (9126782) 11.35 Change That (6557256) 12.00 News (I) regional news and weather

12.05pm Call My Bluff (5919188) 12.35 Good Living (9740459) 1.00 News (T) and weather (90459) 1.30 Regional News and weather (50370343)

(4367459)

1.45 The Weather Show (39861850) 1.50 Neighbours (1) (22705898) 2.15 Quincy The coroner believes that a murderer has assumed the identity of his newsreader victim (r) (3803411)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (1411) 3.55 Bodger and Badger Simon and Badger cause chaos (6115546) 4.10 Ace

Clarissa Explains It All (r) (T) (7477459) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5128508) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5938139)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (537169) 6.00 News (T) and weather (850) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (430) 7.00 Big Break Stephen Hendry joins rising stars Mark Johnston-Allen and Gerard

Greene. With Jim Davidson (1) (3492) 7.30 Too of the Pops The latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (T) (614)

8.00 Porridge Young love preys on the fears of an overprotective father. Classic comedy with Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale (r) (T) (2140) 8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman

asks the questions in the sports quiz. Ally McCoist and John Parrott lead the teams (T) (1275)

9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (307614)

9.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (T) (333492)

10,00 Silent Witness (2/2) Frustration dogs Sam as she becomes increasingly convinced that the wrong suspect is being hunted by the police. Last in the

10.50 Golf: US Masters Live coverage continued from BBC2 (796169) 11.50 Mobsters (1991) with Christian Slater,

Patrick Dempsey, Richard Grieco and Anthony Outrin. Violent drama charting the early years of gangsters Bugsy Siege and Lucky Luciano, as they and the friends make a daring bid to overthrow the dons of 1920s New York. Directed by Michael Karbelnikotf (30142614)

1.25am Money Mania (1987) with Royce D. Applegate and Pam Matteson. A man's dying words spark a wild goose chase across Artzona in search of hidden booty Directed by Richard Fleischer

2.55 Weather (9503378)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes VideoPlus+ and the video Prus-Cossi-The numbers ned to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode\* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ \* handset. Tap In the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (\*\*), Pluscode (\*\*) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gernstar Development Ltd.

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6.00am O.U.: Working Mothers (2397169) 6.25 Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity (6859904) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (f) (8184782) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (r) (f) (4275237) 7.55 Fifty Fifty (r) (f) (5760411) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (r) (3252430) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (9995169) **9.00** Cartoon (2048275) **9.10** The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (3514966) 9.35 The Munsters (b/w) (8647508)

10.00 Telerubbies (44782) 10.30 The Quiet American (1957) American Audie Murphy arrives in Indo-China tull of riaive ideas for ending the war. Also with Alchael Redgrave. Directed by Joseph L.

Mankiewicz (T) (40256) 12.30pm Working Lunch (92099) 1.00 Secret

Lite of Toys (r) (22247166) 1.15 Brainwaves (22525904) 1.20 Dark Victory (1939, melodrama, with Bette Davis, George Brent, Humphrey Bogart, Geraldine Fitzgerald and Ronald Reagan. Directed by Edmund Goulding (77431695) 3.00 News (T) (7654256) 3.05 The Natural World. The Outer Hebrides (r) (T)

(9884091) 3.55 News (T) 4.00 Blockbusters (6782817) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (6785904) 4.55 Esther Bringing the House Down: DIY

(9851237) 5.30 Swimming: The British European Trials Sharron Davies presents high-

6.00 The Simpsons Bart and Homer are pursued by angry locals (T) (631985) 6.20 Star Trek A shuttle carrying Kirk, Spock and an ill Federation Commissioner is trapped on a planet by a mysterious force

(r) (1) (369492) 7.10 Pole to Pole Last in senes (r) (T)

8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss The first American in space, Admiral Alan Shepard, former Vice-President Dan Quayle and Gene Hackman. (1) (1922) 8.30 Gardeners' World Presented by Alan Titchmarsh (T) (9817)



Gregor Fisher and friends (9.00pm)

9.00 Rab C Nesbitt Rab (Gregor Fisher) tries to rekindle the spark in his ailing marriage (r) (T) (5459)

9.30 Goff: US Masters Live coverage from Augusta (25362)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (1) (868324)

10.35 Newsnight (T) (366188)

11,30 Space: Above and Beyond (725237) 12.15am This Life (r) (T) (6929638)

1.00 King of Hearts (1966) Cult comic drama with Alan Bates, Genevieve Bujold and Jean-Claude Bnaly An army private is sent to prevent an evacuated lown from being destroyed. In English, French and

### TENNE HTVE TO THE

6.00am GMTV (6681904) 9.25 Chain Letters (3520527) 9.55 Regional News (T) (2642614) 10.00 The Time, the Place (48508) 10.30 This Morning (T) (61002275)

12.20pm Regional News (1) (4356343) 12.30 News (T) and weather (9736256) 12.55 Our House (9744275)

1.25 Home and Away (T) (64106850) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (2371985) 2.50 Garden Calendar (T) (5919546) 3.20 News (T) (7661546)

3.25 Regional News (T) (7660817) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (6107527) 3.40 Slim Pig (9758782) 3.50 Carloon Time (9754966

4.00 Zzzap! (5239140) 4.15 Jumanii (T) (8139898) 4.40 Crazy Cotlage (8282898) 5.10 A Country Practice (1593527) 5.40 News (T) and weather (547072) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (1) (547072)

6.25 HTV Weather (423053) 6.30 HTV News (T) (433430) 6.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal

Democrats (T) (401091) 7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (T) (8188) 7.30 Coronation Street The police have news

for Mike; Audrey finds herself in a tight comer (T) (782) 8.00 The Bill When a suburban housewife is found strangled, suspicion falls on the homeless schizophrenic she had

bemended. But Meadows's investigation

lakes an unexpected turn (T) (4508) 8.30 You've Been Framed with Je



Mark McGann makes changes (9.00)

9.00 CHOICE The Grand Marcus makes his presence lett when he demands a few changes be implemented. With Mark McGann, Michael Siberry and Susan Hampshire (1) (9527)

10.00 News (T) and weather (67782) 10.30 HTV News and weather (518817) 10.40 Hotel Fly-on-the-wall documentary. The staff recover from a crisis in the kitchens and await the appointment of a new head

chef (T) (145782)

11.15 At the Albert (628614) 12.15am Box Office America (r) (3450541) 12.35 The Killer Inside Me (1976) with Stacy Keach. Susan Tyrrell and Keenan Wynn
A small town sheriff hides a dark secret.

Directed by Burt Kennedy (748102) 2.20 Club Nation (T) (5181034) 3.20 Funky Bunker (8508831) 4.20 Sound Bites (94741386) 4.30 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (1)

6.25-6.55 Anglia News (555091) 10.40 Cross Question Election '97 (333850) 11.40 Pushing the Limits: The Making of Eraser (757986) 12.05am Short Story Cinema (7351803)

Starts: 6,00 Sesame Street (26695) 7.00 The Big Breekfast (73782) 9.00 Bewitched (84459) 9.30 Sister Sister (8666633) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7187121) 10.20 Crystal Maze (7484492) 11.20 Earthworm Jim (4661237) 11.45 The Pink Panther (6186140) 12.00 A Bit of Flava (4350169) 12.05pm California Dreams (9438121) 12.30 Ricki Lake (91237) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (34942594) 1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali (39992099) 1.30 Film: From Here to Eternity (39457324) 3.40 Halewijn (6062459) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (411) 4.30 Mad About Machines (695) 5.00 5 Pump (6966) 5.30 Countdown (275) 6.00 Newyddion (161701) 6.05 Heno (525850) 6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (430343) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (635121) 7.25 Cymru Gudd (933546) 8.00 Olion Ddoe (5850) 8,30 Darilediad Etholiadol (Lio Dems) (206188) 8,35 Newyddion (400817) 9.05 Etholiad 97 (755237) 9,50 Etholiad 97 (183324) 10.05 Brookside (615508) 10.35 Eddie izzard (332121) 11.35 PPB (Lib Dems) (517508) 11.40 TFI Friday (207256) 12.40am Robin (7564980) 12.45 Film: Villain (726980)

### CHANNEL

6.00em Sesame Street (26695) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (73782) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (1) (84459) 9.30 Sister Sister (r) (8666633) 9,55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (7) (8000053)
9,55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (7187121) 10,20 The Crystal Maze (r) (7484492) 11,20 Earthworm Jim (r) (4661237) 11,45 Pink Panther (r) (6186140)

12 00 A Bit of Flava Music videos (4350169) 12.05pm California Dreams (r) (9438121)

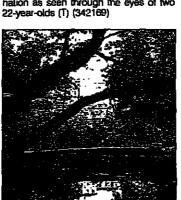
12.30 Light Lunch (10091) 1.30 Spare Time A 1939 short narrated by Laurie Lee, about how workers in three British industries spent their pre-war leisure time. Directed by Humphrey Jennings (22787492)

1.50 The Star (1952, b/w) with Bette Davis as an ageing Hollywood actress who refuses to believe that her career at the top is coming to an end. Directed by Stuart Heisler (T) (42853256)

3.30 Travelling Light (T) (904) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (T) (411) 4.30 Countdown (T) (695) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (6966) 5.30 Pet

Rescue (T) (275) 6.00 TFI Friday The guests include Share Ritchie and Chris Waddle (42576) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (430427)

7.55 Thatcher's Children The state of the nation as seen through the eyes of two 22-year-olds (T) (342169)



A part of Heligan's jungle (8.00pm)

8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan Recreation of the exotic jungle (5/6) (T) (5850) 8.30 Brookside The accident takes its toll on Susannah. Nat and Georgia seem to be

on the verge of leaving Liverpool for good (T) (4985)

9.00 Caroline in the City: Caroline and the Movie Caroline and Annie are determined to become movie extras (T) (4017) 9.30 Spin City: Bye Bye Love The staff rally around Michael when they discover Ashley has left him (T) (92071)

10.00 Frasier: Space Quest All Fraiser wants is a bit of peace and quiet (r) (1) (65324) 10.30 Eddie Izzard: Unrepeatable
The outrageous comedian recorded at the Albery Theatre in London in March 1994 (T) (61904) 11.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal

Democrats (518237) 11.35 TFI Friday (r) (208985) 12.35am Robin Adult animation (7574367) 12.40 Villain (1971) Richard Burton as a

homosexual gangleader planning to rob a chemical company With lan McShane. Directed by Michael Tuchner (T) (734909) 2.30 Frightened City (1961, b/w) London gangster movie starring Herbert Lom, Sean Connery and Alfred Marks. Directed by John Lemont (314760) 4.15-6.00 Joe MacBeth (1955) An updating

of Shakespeare's Macbeth, starring Paul Douglas and Ruth Roman. Directed by

### FINANCE STATE

6.00am 5 News Early (7813324)

7.30 Havakazoo (2933782) 8.00 Aventures of the Bush Patrol

(2551411) 8.30 Wideworld: State of the Union The relationship between American presidents and the media (2550782)

9.00 Espresso (5550633)

10.00 Exclusive (r) (6868782) 10.30 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (2570546) 11.00 Leeza (9790430) 11.50 Double Espresso (45364275)

12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T)

12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9445614) 1.00 5 News Update (92468850) 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (6560324)

2.00 5's Company (4427409) 3.30 His Kind of Woman (1951, b/w) with Robert Mitchum, Jane Russell and Vincent Price. A gambler is given a sum of money to visit a resort in Mexico, where, unbeknown to him, a notorious mobster that he had been a start in the start in th plans to kill him and steal his identity Directed by John Farrow (7817140)

5.30 100 Per Cent (1417817) 6.00 Whittle (T) (1407430)



Jean Heywood is Saily Hart (6,30pm)

6.30 Family Affairs Saily's (Jean Heywood) plans for the future lead to speculation among the Hart family (1) (1498/82) 7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (1315966)

7.30 Wildlife SOS A buzzard refuses to be rescued and a young deer's future hangs in the balance (1) (7695492)

7.55 Political Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (5973527) 8.00 Attractions A What's On quide to the weekend (1324614)

8.30 5 News (1303121) 9.00 Trapped and Deceived (1994) with Jennie Garth, Jill Eikenberry and Tom Irwin. Drama about a troublesome teenage girl. Directed by Robert Iscove (32035633)

10.50 Exclusive Extra (\$215850) 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (2094445) 11.40 Club Class (2612188)

12.10 News and Sport (2907183) 12.15 Burled Alive (1989) with Robert Vaughn, Karen Witter and Donald Pleasence. Edgar Allen Poe's chilling tale about a

teacher's quest to discover why a number of publis have disappeared (6678270) 2.00 The Virgin and the Gypsy (1970) with Joanna Skimkus and Franco Nero. A steamy adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's novel about a young woman causing a stir in 1920s England. Directed by Christopher Mills (5808638)

3.45 Throb (81625201) 4.10 Night Stand (33774980)

#### 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6637589) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (15560) 2.35 Film: Frightened City (764201) 4.20-5.55 Film: Joe MacBeth (615763) German with English subtitles (778015) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5508270) Ken Hughes (45638) 5,30 News (77183) 2.35 Weather (5703116) A CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE P

#### • For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

8.05 am Morning Glory (612091) 8.00 Regis and Kathre Lee (28576) 10.00 Another World (25169) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (28633) 12.00 The Oprah World (25169) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (28633) 12.00 The Oprah World Show (2506) 1.00pm Geraldo (41256) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (67689) 3.00 Jenny Jones (3492) 4.00 Oprah with the Stras (53527) 5.00 Star Trek. The Next Generation (3275) 6.00 Star Trek. The Next Generation (3275) 6.00 Real TV (3430) 6.30 Maried — with Orlidorar (9762) 7.00 The Simpsons (4804) 7.30 MrArS-H (5968) 8.00 JAG (80169) 9.00 Walker, Taxas Ranger (93633) 10.00 7.30 M\*A\*S\*H (5966) 8.00 LAG (80169) 9.00 Walker, Tausa Planger (93633) 10,00 High Incident (63492) 11.00 Selina Scrit Chright (54256) 11,30 Star Trek The Next Generation (77091) 12.30mm LAPD (99831) 1.00 His Mirc Long Play (8474218)

SKY 2 7.00pm Xena: Wantor Princess (1751850) 8.00 Mejrose Piece (1777898) 9.00 Pacific Dine (1780362) 10.00 Tales from the Crypt

(8608411) 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (8624459) 11.00 Late Show (6275343) 12.00 Hg Mo. (8233096) SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week SKY MOVIES\_ SKY MOVIES

6.00am Running Free (1994) (21633)
7.36 The Miracle Worker (1963)
(8252224) 9.25 How to Murder Your Wile (1965) 776879614) 11.25 Trumen (1995) (9003343) 1.40pm The Listia Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1961) (9877878) 3.30 Running Free (1994) (82850) 5.00 Privac for a Day (1995) (8247346) 6.46 Trumen (1995) (43755614) 9.00 A Pyromeniter's Love Story (1995) (24627527) 10.40 SPW (1995) (32313782) 12.20am Carrington (1995) (399473) 2.20 Robin Cool's Formute for Deeth (1995) (1333812) 3.50 The Heunting of Helen Walter (1995) (82501657)

(82501657) THE MOVIE CHANNEL 8.20am The Feminine Touch (1941) (85082140) 8.00 Norwood (1970) (85053) 10.00 Herry Black and the Tiger (1958)

(55459) 12.00 Betman Forever (1995) (37184) 2.00pm Le Colonel Chabert (1994) (85614) 4.00 Black Feether (1995) (6121) 6.00 The Adventures of Yellow Dog (1994) (11275) 7.30 UK Top 10 (1904) 8.00 Betman Forever (1995) (7695) 10.00 Allen (1976) (56753879) 12.05am Allens: The Director's Cut (1996) (45684034) 2.40 Above Suspicion (1994) (860305) 4.20 The Feminine Touch (1941) (236378)

SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm Rooster Cogburn (1975) (8574966) 8.00 The Karute Kid II (1986) (857,945) 8,00 in he harms to a (65,7941) 10,00 The Magnificant Seven (1960) (648,0169) 12,10am Cherry 2000 (1967) (941,050) 1.50 The Pick-Up Artist (1967) (862,39763) 3,15-6.05 Desert Bloom (1986) (523,050)

8.00pm WCW Nitro (59736695) 9.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (69739782) 11.00 The Thin Man (1934) (71473782) 12.45am Dr Jokyll and Mr Hyde (1941) (12623367) 2.45-5.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY SPORTS 1

7.00em Sports Centre (SP140) 7.30 Wresting (51898) 8.30 Racing News (82904) 8.00 Sports Centre (73256) 9.30 Aerobots Cr. Syle (17189) 10.00 Nerbusters (11492) 10.30 Tight Lines (42237) 11.30 World Sport Special (7880) 12.00 Aerobots Cr. Syle (63492) 12.30pm Schootboy Footbar (81989) 2.00 Trans World Sport (12121) 3.00 British Basketbar (397985) 5.30 Netbusters (4998) 6.00 Sports Centre (96695) 7.00 Rugby League Wigan Warters v Bradford Bulls — Live (588558) 9.30 The Rugby Chib (81140) 10.00 Sports Centre (27614) 11.00 Hold the Back Page (75188) 12.00 Trans World Sport (95744) 1.00em-3.00 Wigan v Bradford (10096) SKY SPORTS 2

SKY SPORTS 2 B.00pm American Football: End Zone WLAF Review (4084053) 9.00 Interesting World of Snooter (4087140) 11.00 End Zone (6714053) 12.00-1.00est NHL Power Water (19854590)

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 BMX Edireme (57683850) 1.00pm Interesting World of Snooker (25336833) 3.00 Football League Review (75562966)

4.30 Beach Volleyball (55363904) 5.30 Snowboard Show (42440514) 6.00 World Sport Spacial (42447527) 6.30 Skill Selling (4243679) 7.00 Football Mansfield Town v

Cartisle United - Live (69851324) 10.00 12.00 Wresting (22590072) EUROSPORT POROSPORT

7.30ara Motorcycing — Live (2003.7) 8.30

Motorcycing (55576) 10.00 Motorsports

Report (86527) 11.00 Rally Raid (74607)

17.30 Footbal (67701) 1.00pcm

(47607) 1.00

UK GOLD 7.00em Singer's Day (1486614) 7.35 Neighbours (5059091) 8.00 Crossroads (3064089) 8.25 EastEnders (6496430) 9.00 The Bit (7598350) 9.30 Con't Wait Up (3456071) 10.00 Never the Twan (4130234) 10.30 The Suthwars (7833102) 11.00 Cassalty (4094508) 12.30 Crossroads (3133594) 12.30pm Neighbours (5351607) 1.00 EastEnders (8475627) 1.35 The Two Ronnes (4305490) 2.30 For the Love of Ada (2105956) 3.00 Goldmaster (3552817) 3.30 The Bit (2100411) 4.00 Ad Creatures Great and Small (5971237) 5.00 Generation Game (30072430) 8.05 EastEnders (486650) 8.40 Are You Beerg Served (1797782) 7.20 Russ Abbot (4961411) 7.50 Bullsaye (6090985) 8.20 in Schness and in Health (8024343) 9.00 The Bit (5960121) 9.30 The Chief (79590169) 10.35 The Best of Top of the Pors (1423985) 12.00 Fituals Child's Play (91834947) 1.15am Fitual: Child's Play (91834947) 1.15am Fitual: Child's Play (91834947) 1.15am Fitual: Child's Play (91834947) 1.15am Fitual: Obstant Scream (42342909) 2.30 Snopping at Neglt (1601164) GRANADA PLUS

**GRANADA PLUS** 6.00am The Krypton Factor (5600343) 6.30 Jackson Page (2549850) 7.00 Classic 8.00em The Krypton Factor (5600343) 6.30 Jackson Pace (2549850) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (4080091) 7.30 Farraines (4075989) 8.00 Surprise (4800411) 9.00 The Professionals (5619091) 10.00 Krypton Factor (2563430) 10.30 Doctor on the Go (5733879) 11.00 Within These Wallis (4084546) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (5757459) 12.30pm Families (6390896) 1.00 Abson Variet (40889879) 1.30 The Good Life Guide ramiles (609U038) 1,00 Artion Namet (4088362) 1,30 The Good Life Guide (6599366) 2,00 First Among Equats (2571459) 3,00 Upstars, Downster's (3259430) 4,00 Surprise Surprise



(3245237) 5.00 The Protessionals (5804985) 6.00 Families (3888625) 6.30 Coronation Street (\$283017) 7.00 Surprise. Surprise (2181121) 8.00 Upstairs. Down-stairs (2107169) 9.00 Coronation Street

THE DISNEY CHANNEL 8.00am Big Garage (9900188) 6.15 Muspel Baines (7758879) 6.40 The Care Bears (1288094) 7.05 Disnry 9.48 Sta Mother's Day (6478546) 7.55 The Liftle Mermaid (1372527) 8.20 Aladdin (4286409) 8.45 Cuack Pack (8306362) 9.10 Brand Sparking New Doug Ga87546) 9.35 Mightly Ducks (3177527) 10.00 Good Troop (8473059) 10.25 Darkwing Duck (6477492) 10.50 Timon and Purribas (3394614) 11.15 Bonkers (398701) 11.45 The Little Mermald (5296411) 12.100mm (Juack Allack Bonkers (398701) 11.45 The Little Mermaki (5289411) 12.10pm Quack Attack (2118072) 12.40 Mouse Tracks (5935169) 1.10 Strick with Me Kid (1375966) 2.00 FILM: The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes (51091) 3.30 Irmon and Pumbas (1146072) 3.40 Brand Spanking New Boug (2591053) 4.05 Gool Troop (2934922) 4.30 Chack Peck (9474294) 4.85 Aladdin (9493459) 5.20 Flash Forward (4849701) 5.45 Timon and Pumbas (878053) 6.00 Shy

William Powell and Myma Loy in The Thin Man (TNT, 11.00pm) Trackers (4053) **6.30** Timon and Pumbaa (8633) **7.00 FILM: Just Like Dad** (78969053) **8.45** Timon and Pumbaa (854140) **9.00-19.00** Flipper (54169)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00em Three Little Chosts, (1700695) 6.30 respector (sagget (7154091) 7.00 Samufal Ptza Cats (6256995) 7.30 Eagle Riders (6278430) 8.00 Hero Turles (8604695) 8.30 Masked Rider (8603696) 9.00 Beetleborgs (8627948) 9.30 Power Rangers Zeo (7569860) 10.00 C Beer and Jamel (7147343) 10.30 Eek! Strevagerza (756960) 10.00 C Beer and Jamel (7147343) 10.30 Eski Stressgerze (8616430) 11.00 Lie with Louie (8256782) 11.30 Eski Stressgerze (8616430) 11.00 Lie with Louie (8256782) 11.30 Eski Stressgerze (8257411) 12.00 Incredible Irida (8767982) 12.300m Moral Kombel (7570968) 1.00 Hightender (826866) 1.30 Esgia Reders (7579237) 2.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (4541169) 2.30 Masked Rufer (3317317) 3.00 Beetlebrurgs (4563394) 3.30 Power Rengers Zeo (3312362) 4.00 C Beer and Jamel (3308169) 4.30 Eski Stravegartze (3397853) 5.00 Spicierman (4625121) 5.30 Goosebumps (3311633) 6.00-7.00 Sweet Valley High (3318546)

TCC The Burning Zone (3491072) 10.00 Tour of 6.00am Road to Avonisa (62459) 7.00 Duty (9401459) 11.00 FILM: Story of a

Dennis the Menace (19430) 8.00 Batman (25633) 8.30 Ari Attack (24904) 8.00 Flash Gordon (15255) 9.30 Bobby's World (33140) 10.00 Romuald the Reindeer (80679) 10.30 Robinson Sucroe (73940) (80679) 10.30 Robinson Sucroe (73940) 11.00 Danger Mouse (20237) 11.30 Gravedale High (21965) 12.00 Oscar's Orchestre (95492) 12.30pm Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (44256) 1.00 By the Way of the Stars (29256) 1.30 Black Beauty (43527) 2.00 The Girl hom Tornorow (1850) 2.30 Ocean Odyssey (6989) 3.00 Art Attack (2035) 3.30 Flash Gordon (1343) 4.00 Batman (1350) 4.30-3.00 The Bg Dah (3362)

CARTOON NETWORK Non-stop carbons from 5.00am to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeya and The Pintstones

NICKELODEON 6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (56362) 6.30 Count Duckula (28782) 7.00 (56962) 6.30 Court Duckula (28782) 7.00 Captain Smaar and the Space Morkeys (57762) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptiseper (76817) 8.00 Bruno the Kid (81275) 8.30 Hoy Amortis (18684) 10.00 Rugaris (71886) 10.00 Asshire Real Monsters (42362) 10.30 Doug (66782) 11.30 Balley Kipper's Point of View (76182) 12.00 Kensan and Kel (84362) 12.30 gm The Secret World of Alex Mack (19546) 1.00 Sister Sister (56053) 1.30 Moseha (18817) 2.00 Round the Twist (8904) 2.30 The Adventures of Pete and Pete (1324) 3.00 Stokan Anound (5411) 3.30 Asshir Real Monsters (3169) 4.00 Sister Sister (5904) 6.00 Press Gang (2053) 8.30-7.00 Doug (8833)

TROUBLE 12.00 Heartbreak High (2906332) 1.00pm Medison (4063492) 1.30 Sweet Valley High (8406576) 2.00 Hengtime (3528850) 2.30 California Dreams (2123362) 3.00 Byker Grove (3547985) 3.30 No Naked Flamed (2102679) 4.00 Sweet Valley High (2114614) 4.30 Hengtime (211098) 5.00 Saved by the Beil (3542430) 5.30 California Dreams (2194850) 6.00 Byker Grove (2124091) 6.30 Madison (2115343) 7.00-8.00 Heentbreak High (9402188)

8.00 Hearthreak High (9402188) BRAVO 8.00pm The New Twiight Zone (3548614) 8.30 The New Twilight Zone (3527121) 9.60 Cioistered Nun (5576530) 1.00am The Burning Zone (4291164) 2.00 Tour of Duty (9276473) 3.00 FILM: Story of a Ciois-tered Nun (4759847) 5.00 The New Twifight Zone (7147378)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Entertainment UK (7492) 7.30 Rosearme (2817) 8.00 Rosearme (6140) 7.00pm Entertalnment UK (749C) 7.30 Roseame (2617) 8.00 Roseame (5140) 8.30 Monty Python's Plying Circus (5275) 9.00 Cheers (95527) 8.30 Cybil (99782) 10.00 Frasier (85091) 10.30 Gany Shanding (51411) 11.00 Collins and Macone's Mone Cub (90072) 11.30 Nightsand (97879) 12.30em Camal Knowledge (53003) 1.30 Cybil (26552) 2.00 Entertalnment UK (89947) 2.30 Collins and Macone's Movie Cub (48454) 3.00 Frasier (8999) 3.30-4.00 Gany Shandling (62034) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00cm The Twilight Zone (1769305) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (3466251) 2.00 FILM: Creepshow II (2626183) 3.48-4.00 The Remaking of Star Wars (72741285)

HOME & LEISURE 9.00em The Joy of Painting (9338332) 9.30 Gardeners' Diery (525653) 10.00 Stars and Gardens (4138966) 10.30 Doing & Up (9833184) 11.00 The Painted House [9835164] 11:30 The Painter House (59895255) 12:00 Yan Can Cook (5939576) 12:30pm Graham Kerr (7151699) 1:00 Today's Gourmer (4096956) 1:30 Home Again with Bob Vila (2006530) 2:00 Homestime (3531324) 2:30 Furniture to Go (2103508)

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rev. Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2127188) 4.30 Roedshow (2116072) 5.00 Tema X (3555904) 5.30 Mystenes. Manuc Terra X (3555904) 5.30 Mystenes, Magic and Miracles (2107323) 6.00 Wid Trings: Drazmed Ahica (4562850) 7.00 Beyond 2000 (3535140) 7.30 Disaster (2117701) 8.00 Animal Cracless: (948782) 9.00 Medical Detectives (5991091) 9.30 Medical Detectives (1551445) 10.00 Animal Cracless (9407633) 11.00 The MG Story (4006343) 12.00 Classic Wheels (7042741) 1 101en Deseter (1948471 1-9-3 M)

1.00am Disaster (1984947) 1.30-2.00 Beyond 2000 (3376152) THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1583817) 5.00 Mysteries of the Bible (7593527) 8.00-8.00 Mysteres of the Bible (7593527) a Biography Jeny Lewis (4083324)

CHALLENGE TV Win with Prize Time twice an hou \$1.05pm Blockbusters (9731409) 5.50 Family Fortunes (406850) 6.30 Catchphrase (336188) 7.05 Sale of the Century (470256) (338189) 7.05 Sale of the Century (470256) 7.40 Give Us A Clue (274169) 8.20 All Clued Up (316879) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (657324) 9.35 Busman's Folicay (542053) 10.05 Treasure Hum (291350) 11.20 Love at First Sight (695091) 12.00 Sale of the Century (98270) 12.30 and Family Late: Hart to Hart (58357) 1.30 Moonlighting (73812) 2.30 Christy (36454) 3.30 My Two Deds (77980) 4.00-8.00 The Fall Guy (23305) UK LIVING

6.00em Trry Living (2100418) 9.06 Gladrags and Glamouz (8250343) 9.15 Gordon Effect (8890782) 10.05 Jerry Springer (7556459) 11.00 The Young and the Resides (8895411) 11.50 The New Mr and Mrs Strow (2170053) 12.25pm Why Me? (71873576) 12.55 Tempesti (8740324) 1.40 Rolomda (8065275) 2.30 The Agony Experience (9520701) 3.00 Live at Three (95127527) 4.05 The Jerry Springer Show (9314966) 5.06 Lingo (79794695) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (9531877 8.00 I Dreem of Jeannie (3895505) 5.35 The Heat is On (2079053) 7.05 Hearts Afre (1913188) 7.35 Industrion LIK (262243) 8.05 Rolonda (542633) 9.00 FILLE Grave Secrets: The Legacy of Hilliop Drive (8576324) 11.00-12.00 The Sproy Sex Files (2918275) ZEE TV

7.00cm Jacgran 7.30 Gaane Angaane 8.00
7.00cm Jacgran 7.30 Gaane Angaane 8.00
7.00cm Jacgran 7.30 Gaane Angaane 8.00
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FRIDAY APRIL 11 1997

Anger at Old Trafford as Premier League turns down request for extension to season

# United's plea for extra time rejected

By Richard Hobson

MANCHESTER United suffered their second disappointment with-in 24 hours yesterday when the FA Premier League dismissed a re-quest to ease their fixture congestion by extending the football season. Martin Edwards, the United chief executive, is planning an appeal to the Football Association and has threatened to turn to the courts in a bid to reverse the

In a furious response that would have impressed Alex Ferguson, the United manager, for its withering contempt of officialdom, Edwards accused Premier League officials of being "amateurish".

People criticise and say that it is just Manchester United moaning and whining, but there are particu- European places or relegation."

this request," Edwards said. United face four fixtures in eight

days at the end of the season: against Lecester City on May 3, Middlesbrough on May 6, New castle United on May 8 and West Ham United on May 11. A decision that they should honour that schedule was made by a two-man panel comprising Peter Leaver. QC. the Premier League chief executive, and Sir John Quinton, the chairman.

The Premier League has considered the needs of all clubs and taken full account of the issues at stake in the final weekend of the season," a statement said. "It is possible, at this stage, that every game on May II will have an impact on either the championship.

has arisen because of Middles brough's continued involvement in both domestic cup competitions. Twice, he said, the fixture had been arranged and then re-arranged because Middlesbrough's FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup ties took precedence over the FA Carling Premiership. The situation had been exacerbated by the postponement of two rounds of weekend matches, after the original schedule was produced, to accommodate international matches.

"We have tried very hard to sort the situation out because we were aware of the fixtures piling up," Edwards said. "To expect us to play these four games in eight days is quite ludicrous. We have to win this matter either by an appeal to the FA or maybe a judicial review.



Mark Hodkinson . Final frontier.

They say this is the best league in the world, but this is amateurish. It is crazy and shows how badly it is

Bryan Robson, the Middles-brough manager, has sided with Ferguson in support of his former

club. Middlesbrough also face four games in the same eight-day per-iod. Otherwise, while there may be a modicum of sympathy for United's predicament - and wide-spread hope that they can reverse the 1-0 defeat against Borussia Dortmund sustained on Wednesday night and reach the European Cup final — there is little support for Edwards from within the game.

Because of their involvement in the Champions' League, United were given a bye into the third round of the Coca-Cola Cup, sparng them two games, and, despite their schedule, they have agreed to face Celtic in a testimonial match in aid of Brian McClair on April 15.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsena manager, incurred the wrath of Ferguson last Saturday when he publicly opposed United's call. "I

have nothing against Manchester United, but I want regularity in the competition. It is difficult to change the rules so near to the end of the season," Wenger said yesterday. suggesting that Ferguson should have anticipated the situation earlier. Arsenal, who are third in the FA Carling Premiership, have seven clear days in which to prepare for their final match.

against Derby County. Wenger may be unaware that Arsenal endured 70 games in the 1979-80 season, when they reached the finals of the FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup. Nobody doubts that the pace of the game has quickened since then, although the choking calendar was given more room to breathe two years ago, when the Premiership was cut from 22 to 20 clubs. Uefa, the governing body of

further reduction to IS. Any such move is likely to meet with opposition from the club chairmen, who would not want to lose revenue from two more home games.

More likely are alterations to the format of the Coca-Cola Cup, with negotiations already under way between the Premier League and the Football League. One idea is to replicate the competition in Scot-land, which is completed early in the season. Alternatively, those clubs involved in European competition may be allowed to pull out.

The Premier League said yester

day that it would meet with FA and Football League officials to discuss the idea of producing a skeleton fixture list for the next three seasons, incorporating all competitions, to allow for proper planning.

Mission hope

All desit alive

Augusta greens terrifyingly fast

# Early starters staggered by putting perils

GEORGIA'S famous Southern hospitality and warmth of welcome did not last for long as the 61st Masters got underway yesterday. A brilliant blue sky and warm sunshine were accompanied by a biting wind that gusted through the pines.

It was soon obvious that the greens were so firm and fast they were presenting a challenge that was too severe for almost all of the early starters. Dan Forsman three-putted six of the first seven greens, for Sam Torrance reeled off

after a 75 with a wry grin. He was three over par - but par on a day such as this was nearer 74 than 72 because of the difficulties posed by the greens. "I played lovely." Tor-rance said. "I am really swinging the club well." John Cook had a 77 and when he finished he said: "By the time we got to the first green, it was blue." Scott Hoch's score of 79 was

bad, but he was eight strokes



Rob Hughes

better than Ken Green, who was back at Augusta National for the first time since 1991. "I had 43 strokes and 44 putts," Green said. "I five-putted the

Since Green's 87, 15 over par, resembled the first digits of a hefty telephone bill, it was appropriate that he should have stormed away from the 18th green saying: "I'm not talking. Here's my phone

number. Call me later if you back and run helter skelter

up the green.

Norman was playing an approach stroke, Hoch was putting. He was 20 feet away in two, 150 feet away in three. "Were the greens unfair?" Torrance was asked. "Which side of unfair do you want?" he replied. I'd say they were unfair. They were very fair if you hit into the right spot but unfair if you did not. I would like to see a little more

instead, Scottish football

must wait and wonder what

the future holds after a meet-

ing in Edinburgh yesterday by

chairmen of the top ten clubs.

That ensured that the 16-12-12

plan, originally put forward

by Jack Steedman, of Clyde-

bank, was doomed and

yesterday's meeting rubber-

want anything." Green's score was his worst by eight strokes at Augusta.

The course showed no favours to Lee Westwood and Jesper Parnevik, two Europeans making their first appearances here.

Westwood, a Ryder Cup candidate, who had birdied the opening hole in two of his three practice rounds, ran up a six while Parnevik, third in the US money list, watched in horror as his second stroke to the putting surface as the backspin took hold.

He was so shaken by this and so uncertain of the speed of the greens that his first putt ended little more than halfway to the hole, 25 feet from the

flag.
This was as nothing, to Hoch's though, compared to Hoch's experiences on the 9th, a green that tilts noticeably from back to front, as Greg Norman found to his cost in the fourth round last year. Then Norman's second was within one yard of ending on the right part of the green, only to spin

down the fairway. The same thing happened to Hoch's ball. It slid off the putting surface and bounced this way and that as it rolled down the evil slope that leads

The difference was that

leniency. You should be able to shoot 68 and be happy, not a

75 and be happy." Torrance faced one moment of potential disaster when he was above the hole on the 6th green. He had hit a magnificent five-iron straight at the flag and then was left with a six-foot downhill putt.

He liked the distance, hated his position, knowing that if it did not go into the hole it could conceivably end 30 feet below it.. "I barely breathed on it," he said. "Thank God it went in." Only one man was under

par at midday and after the first 100 minutes of play there had been only three birdies. in part, this was a reflection of the difficulty of the course, in part a criticism of the sham of a draw, which resulted in

almost every big name in world golf teeing off after

12.00. Steve Jones, the US Open champion. Steve Elkington, winner of the Players Championship, Ben Crenshaw, the champion in 1995, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, as well as Nick Faldo, the defending champion, Tiger Woods, the game's hottest property, José Maria Olazábal, Tom Lehman, the player of the year in the United States in 1996 and Nick Price were all among those starting their rounds in the afternoon. This smacks of a little too much obeisance to

the great god television.
Colin Montgomerie was one of the few leading players who began his round before midday. Wielding a putter with

less loft than he would use in Europe, Montgomerie ran into trouble as early as the 2nd, where his drive flew away to the right and ended

resting against a pine cone beneath a dogwood tree. "Better not move it, Al," he ioked to Alastair McLean, his caddie. "There are too many people watching." He then wasted a good recovery shot by three-putting from 20 feet. However, he birdied the 3rd. By 2.25 local time, 48 competitors had reached the turn

and only two were under par. Stuart Appleby, the promising young Australian, who is competing in his first Masters, was the first. Later. Corey Pavin, the 1995 US Open champion, became the second, They were both out in 35.

# ON MONDAY

The Times launches the great summer of Interactive Team Cricket game with Cricket 97, a 16-page guide to the season.

 Play Interactive Team Cricket and win a £10,000 first prize plus Test match tickets. Alan Lee tours the counties and assesses

their prospects, Full fixtures guide

to the first-class and one-day matches. Will Hollloake be the name on the lips of England's selectors?



Torrance, who got round in a creditable 75, three over par, in difficult conditions, demonstrates his bunker expertise at the opening hole

No 1065

**# ACROSS** Greedy; very keen (4) 3 Ludicrous (8) 9 Desert plants (5)

10 Fishing vessel (7) 11 Current measuring device 12 Implement (4)

14 Unintelligent (6) 16 Seductive appeal (6) 18 Heel over; set of items (4)

19 Not listened to (7) 22 As 8 is of 18 (7) 23 Caribbean voodoo island

24 Twilight (Scot.) (8) 25 Complacent (4)

The solution to 1064 will be published Wednesday, April 16

SCOTLAND'S leading clubs Word not in current use (8) yesterday drove the final nail 2 (Held) in solitary (13) into proposals for a 16-team Blood-circulating tube (6) premier division next season. 5 Personal possession (7) The Scottish League manage-ment committee scrapped 6 Word in informal use (13) Traditional wisdom (4) plans to put a 16-12-12 division-8 River sediment (4) al blueprint to a vote of all clubs at the end of the present 13 Selling (small items, drugs) campaign,

15 Meantime (7) 17 Armed criminal (6) 20 Sunken boundary (2-2) 21 Group of workmen, crimi-

stamped that the matter will not even be raised at the league's annual meeting on David Murray, the Rangers chairman, and Fergus Mc-Cann, his Celtic counterpart, are at the heart of the plans for a tartan premiership; styled

### Plans for Scottish premier division voted out by league BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

on the successful English ex-

ample. The top clubs want more control over negotiations with sponsors and television companies, with the possibility of pay-per-view television in the future adding another element. Present contracts with Scottish League sponsors' Bell's and television deals expire at the end of next season. with re-negotiation now dependent on the way

Heart of Midlothian were once again rebuffed in their attempt to play Rangers at Murrayfield instead of Tynecastle on Sunday, May II. The Edinburgh club wanted to switch because of redevelopment work at Tynecastle, which, they say, will leave them without a police observation box. However, the League will not allow a switch of the fixture, saying all last-day

games must be played on the

now been told to instal a temporary police box or come lan Wright and Peter Schmeichel yesterday drew a line under their controversial public clashes by assuring the Football Association that there was no feud between them. Nevertheless, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, has warned them both that a similar conflict in future would be met by a heavy

Wright, the Arsenal striker. and Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, have angrily clashed twice this Schmeichel was alleged to

have made racist remarks to Wright during United's 1-0 FA Carling Premiership win at Old Trafford in November after the first of the incidents. The controversy surfaced again after an incident in United's win on February 19.

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